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## Graham urging Trump to reopen government

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Republican lawmaker advising President Donald Trump said he is encouraging the president to reopen the government for several weeks to continue negotiating with Democrats over funding for a U.S.-Mexico border wall before the president takes the more drastic step of declaring a national emergency. But that may be wishful thinking, given that Sen. Lindsey Graham also says Trump still wants to reach a deal for the wall before agreeing to reopen shuttered government departments.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a leading Democratic negotiator, insists that Trump reopen the government first. The weeks-old standoff over funding led to the partial government shutdown that hit day 23 on Sunday without an end in sight. "Before he pulls the plug on the legislative option, and I think we're almost there, I would urge him to open up the government for a short period of time, like three weeks, before he pulls the plug, see if we can get a deal," said Graham, a South Carolina Republican.

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019,

Associated Press



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# Industry wary of alternatives tries to protect a word: meat

By GRANT SCHULTE

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) —

More than four months after Missouri became the first U.S. state to regulate the term "meat" on product labels, Nebraska's powerful farm groups are pushing for similar protection from veggie burgers, tofu dogs and other items that look and taste like real meat.

Nebraska lawmakers will consider a bill this year defining meat as "any edible portion of any livestock or poultry, carcass, or part thereof" and excluding "lab-grown or insect or plant-based food products." It would make it a crime to advertise or sell something "as meat that is not derived from poultry or livestock."

Similar measures aimed at meat alternatives are pending in Tennessee, Virginia and Wyoming. They come amid a debate over what to call products that are being developed using the emerging science of meat grown by culturing cells in a lab. Supporters of the science are embracing the term "clean meat" — language the conventional meat industry strongly opposes.

The issue strikes a particularly strong chord in Nebraska, one of the nation's top states for livestock production, where cars roll down the interstate with "Beef State" license plates and the governor each year proclaims May as "Beef Month."

Farm groups have found an unusual ally in state Sen.



A conventional beef burger, left, is seen Friday, Jan. 11, 2019, next to "The Impossible Burger", right, a plant-based burger containing wheat protein, coconut oil and potato protein among its ingredients.

Associated Press

Carol Blood, a city-dwelling vegetarian from the Omaha suburb of Bellevue. Blood, who grew up on a farm, said she introduced the measure because agriculture is Nebraska's largest industry and needs to be protected for the good of the whole state.

"I'm not bringing this bill to tell people what they can and can't eat," she said. "All I'm asking for is truth in advertising. It's clear that meat comes from livestock, and livestock is our livelihood in Nebraska."

Nebraska led the nation in commercial red meat production in 2017 and had the most feed cows as of last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agri-

culture. Livestock and livestock product sales generated an estimated \$12.1 billion for the state's economy in 2016, according to the USDA's most recent available data.

The measure is certain to face resistance from food producers that sell plant-based alternatives, as well as those working to bring lab-grown meat to market. Critics say the bill infringes on the free-speech rights of companies that produce vegetarian alternatives to real meat.

The Good Food Institute, the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri, the Animal Legal Defense Fund and plant-based food company Tofurkey have

filed a federal lawsuit challenging the Missouri law. They argue the law unfairly stifles competition.

The Nebraska bill "would censor food labels and create consumer confusion where there is none," said Jessica Almy, director of policy for the Washington-based Good Food Institute. "You can't censor speech just to promote one industry's financial success." Supporters of the Nebraska measure say they want to ensure people aren't misled about what they're eating.

Blood said she proposed the measure after seeing two women in a grocery store who couldn't tell whether a product con-

tained meat or a substitute. She said her proposal wouldn't require inspections of product labels, as Missouri's law does.

"I don't want to be the meat police," she said.

Under the Nebraska bill, violations would bring a misdemeanor charge punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

"Consumers have a right to know what they're buying," said John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union. "That's the case whether it's a vegetarian product or not. There ought to be clear, honest and accurate labeling, and then let the marketplace make the choices."

Hansen said his group's livestock producers are particularly concerned about whether consumers will be able to differentiate between meat grown in the lab and farm-grown beef, pork and chicken.

Pete McClymont, executive vice president for the group Nebraska Cattlemen, said his organization's concern rises partly from the growth of products labeled as almond and soy milk, which have become an increasingly popular alternative to cow's milk. McClymont said his group still needs to review specific details of the Nebraska proposal, but will push for any law that protects the state's livestock producers.

"When I go out and speak to our membership, this is right near the top of what people are passionate about," he said. □

## Judge blocks Trump birth control coverage rules in 13 states

SUDHIN THANAWALA

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) —

A U.S. judge in California on Sunday blocked Trump administration rules, which would allow more employers to opt out of providing women with no-cost birth control, from taking effect in 13 states and Washington, D.C.

Judge Haywood Gilliam granted a request for a preliminary injunction by California, 12 other states

and Washington, D.C. The plaintiffs sought to prevent the rules from taking effect as scheduled on Monday while a lawsuit against them moved forward.

But Gilliam limited the scope of the ruling to the plaintiffs, rejecting their request that he block the rules nationwide.

The changes would allow more employers, including publicly traded companies, to opt out of providing no-cost contraceptive cov-

erage to women by claiming religious objections. Some private employers could also object on moral grounds.

California and the other states argue that women would be forced to turn to state-funded programs for birth control and experience unintended pregnancies.

"The law couldn't be more clear — employers have no business interfering in women's healthcare decisions,"

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement Sunday. "Today's court ruling stops another attempt by the Trump Administration to trample on women's access to basic reproductive care. It's 2019, yet the Trump Administration is still trying to roll back women's rights. Our coalition will continue to fight to ensure women have access to the reproductive healthcare they are guaranteed under the law."

The U.S. Department of Justice said in court documents the rules "protect a narrow class of sincere religious and moral objectors from being forced to facilitate practices that conflict with their beliefs."

At issue is a requirement under President Barack Obama's health care law that birth control services be covered at no additional cost. Obama officials included exemptions for religious organizations. □

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**Continued from Front**

"If we can't at the end of three weeks, all bets are off."

"See if he can do it by himself through the emergency powers. That's my recommendation," added Graham, who has publicly pushed Trump to use his authority to declare a national emergency to build the wall. Such a step would allow Trump to bypass Congress and tap various pots of unspent federal money, including for military construction and disaster relief and from asset seized by law enforcement, to pay for the wall.

Trump has kept Washington on edge over whether he would resort to such a declaration, citing what he says is a "crisis" of drug smuggling and the trafficking of women and children at the border. The president initially sounded as though such a move was imminent, but then pulled back. He has said several times since he first mentioned the idea in public earlier this month that he prefers to try to reach a deal with Congress.

A key question is how much more time is Trump willing to give lawmakers. Graham, who said he and Trump talked by telephone on Sunday morning, said the legislative path "is just about shut off" and blamed Pelosi.

The speaker's office had no immediate comment.

Democrats oppose an emergency declaration but may be powerless to block it. Some Republicans are wary, too, fearing how a future Democratic president might use that authority. Such a move, should

Trump ultimately go that route, would almost certainly be challenged in the courts.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., called Graham's idea to reopen the government a "great place to start."

"I do think if we reopen the government, if the president ends this shutdown crisis, we have folks who can negotiate a responsible, modern investment in technology that will actually make us safer," Coons said.

Trump has maintained that the border cannot be secured without a wall. Graham said he thinks Trump is willing to accept the \$5.7 billion he has insisted on for the wall, along with some immigration measures Democrats might find acceptable, such as helping immigrants who were illegally brought to the U.S. as children.

Trump has expressed interest in a broader immigration overhaul, but says he first wants the Supreme Court to address the class of immigrants known as "Dreamers." Pelosi also has shown no interest in accepting a wall — she has called it an "immorality" — in exchange for immigration fixes.

And, Trump, who was holed up in the White House as snow blanketed Washington on Sunday, appeared to shoot down Graham's suggestion of a "wall plus" deal, saying on Twitter that even Democrats don't want to make "Dreamers" part of the negotiations.

"The damage done to our Country from a badly broken Border - Drugs, Crime and so much that is bad - is far greater than a Shut-

down, which the Dems can easily fix as soon as they come back to Washington!" Trump said in a separate tweet.

The White House has been laying the groundwork for an emergency declaration, feared by members of both parties.

Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., said he would "hate to see" a declaration because then the wall wouldn't get built, presumably because of legal challenges. Democrats voted in the past for border security and should again, he said.

"I actually want to see this wall get built," Johnson



In this Jan. 10, 2019, photo, the Capitol Dome is seen through a skylight in the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington.

Associated Press

said. "I want to keep pressure on Democrats to actually come to the negotiating table in good faith and fund what they have sup-

ported in the past." But Graham, who favors a presidential declaration, said the time for talk is running out. □



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## Trump dodges question on whether he has worked for Russia



President Donald Trump leads a roundtable discussion on border security with local leaders, Friday, Jan. 11, 2019, in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump avoided directly answering when asked whether he currently is or has ever worked for Russia after a published report said law enforcement officials, concerned about

his behavior after he fired FBI Director James Comey in 2017, had begun investigating that possibility. Trump said it was the "most insulting" question he'd ever been asked. The New York Times report

Friday cited unnamed former law enforcement officials and others familiar with the investigation. Trump responded to the story Saturday during a telephone interview broadcast on Fox News Channel after host Jeanine Pirro, a personal friend, asked the Russia question.

"I think it's the most insulting thing I've ever been asked," Trump said. "I think it's the most insulting article I've ever had written, and if you read the article you'll see that they found absolutely nothing."

Trump never answered Pirro directly, but went on to assert that no president has taken a harder stance against Russia than he has. "If you ask the folks in Russia, I've been tougher on Rus-

sia than anybody else, any other ... probably any other president, period, but certainly the last three or four presidents."

Trump's claim was disputed by Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. He said almost all the sanctions on Russia arose not in the White House but in Congress, due to concerns by members of both parties about Moscow's actions. Warner accused the White House of being very slow to put in place the penalties. The Times reported that FBI agents and some top officials became suspicious of Trump's ties to Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign but didn't open an investigation at that time because they weren't sure how to approach such a sensitive probe.

Trump's behavior in the days around Comey's May 2017 firing helped trigger the counterintelligence part of the probe, according to the newspaper. In the inquiry, counterintelligence investigators sought to evaluate whether Trump was a potential threat to national security. They also sought to determine whether Trump was deliberately working for Russia or had unintentionally been influenced by Moscow. Trump tweeted early Saturday that the report showed that the FBI leadership "opened up an investigation on me, for no reason & with no proof" after he had fired Comey.

Robert Mueller took over the investigation when he was appointed special counsel soon after Comey's firing. The overall investigation is looking into Russian election interference and whether Trump's campaign coordinated with the Rus-

sians, as well as possible obstruction of justice by Trump. The Times says it's unclear whether Mueller is still pursuing the counterintelligence angle.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said the report "may well suggest what it was that helped start this investigation in the first place." He and other Democratic senators said this report and others within the past week questioning Trump's behavior toward Russia give new urgency to the need for the Mueller investigation to be allowed to run its course. A new report in The Washington Post said Trump went to extraordinary lengths to conceal details of his conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin even from high-ranking officials in his own administration. The report cited unnamed current and former U.S. officials.

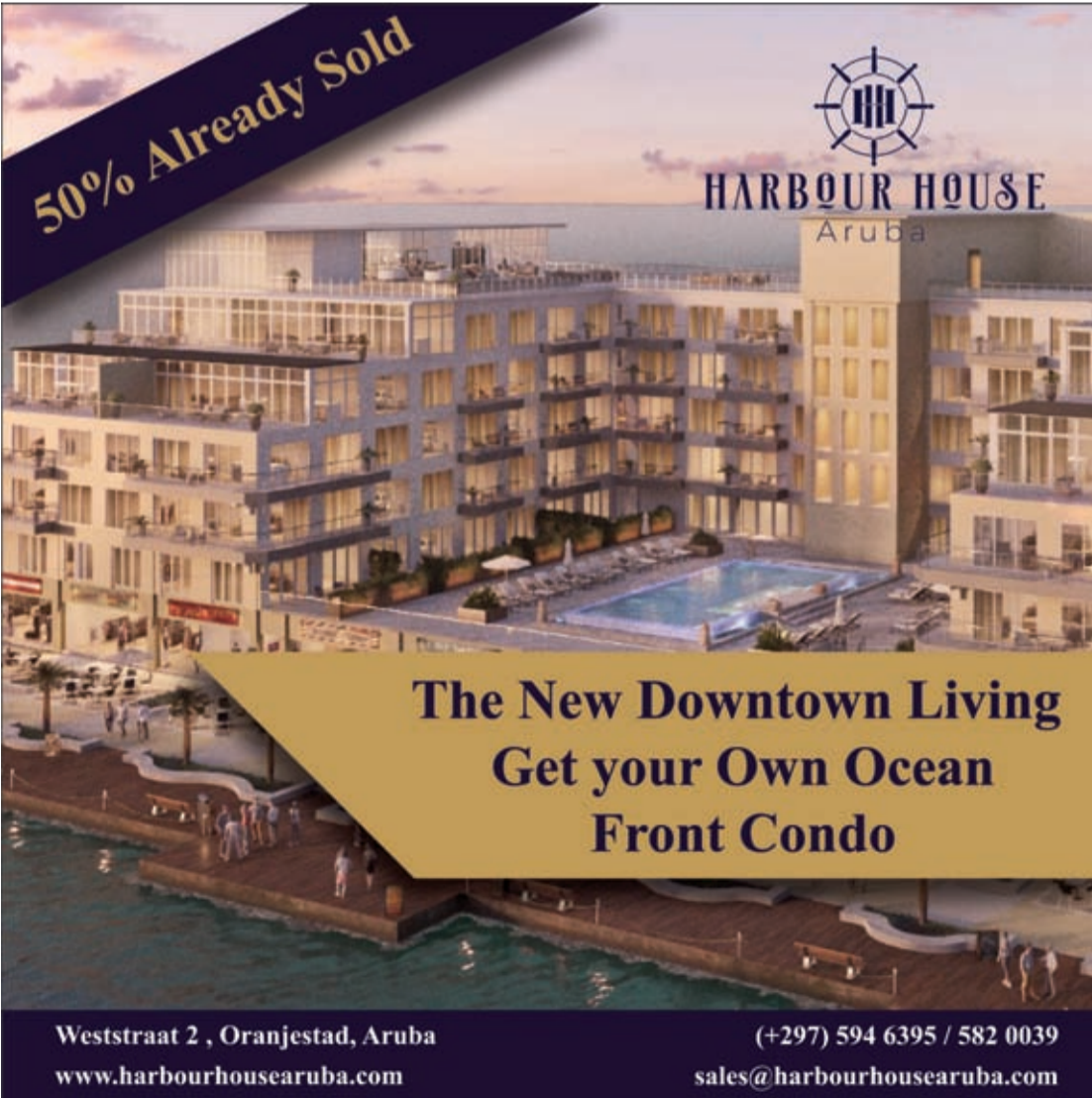
In the Fox News interview, Trump questioned why the newspaper made such a "big deal" out of his discussions with Putin in Helsinki last summer. "Anybody could have listened to that meeting, that meeting is up for grabs."

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., defended the president, who he said was "burned earlier by leaks of other private conversations."

Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani told the Times he had no knowledge of the counterintelligence inquiry but said that since it was opened a year and a half ago and they hadn't heard anything, apparently "they found nothing."

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who is close to Trump and chairs the Judiciary Committee, said he intends to ask the FBI director if there was a counterintelligence investigation into the president. □

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# Recreational fishing rules to be overhauled under new law

By PATRICK WHITTLE  
Associated Press

The rules that govern recreational marine fishing in the U.S. will get an overhaul due to a new law passed by Congress, and the country's millions of anglers and the groups that stake their livelihoods on them hope the changes will bring better management.

The new standards are part of a suite of changes that proponents call the Modern Fish Act that were approved by the House and Senate in December. Supporters of the new rules have said they will boost an industry that contributes billions to the economy, though some members of the fishing industry felt deeper rule changes were warranted.

The passage is a "big step toward implementing science-based methods" and "marks the first substantial update to the federal fisheries management system in more than a decade," said Nicole Vasilaros, senior vice president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, a boating industry trade group.

The author of the proposal, Mississippi Republican Sen. Roger Wicker, said one of the key features of the law is that it promises to help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration incorporate data from fishermen, which he said would improve timeliness and accuracy. The data help inform fishing rules and regulations.

The proposal also encourages regional fishery management councils to update policies for some recreational anglers who fish in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the most popular bodies of water among sport fishermen. The current rules are designed for commercial fishermen and are difficult for recreational anglers to follow, Wicker said. There are also a host of other tweaks designed to more efficiently manage recreational fishing.

"Passage of the Modern Fish Act will boost our conservation efforts and benefit the local economies that depend on recreational fishing," Wicker said.

Recreational fishing is a huge industry in the U.S., with trade groups touting more than 40 million licensed fishermen and an impact on the economy well above \$100 billion. A report released by NOAA earlier this month said the recreational fishing industry fueled more than 472,000 jobs in 2016, up from 420,000 in 2012.

Members of the Marine Fish Conservation Network, a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations and others, said the final version of the bill was "an improvement" from where it started, when it faced opposition from conservationists and industry members. However, Congress still needs to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the federal standards that govern U.S. fisheries at large, the group said.

"Our hope is that the 116th Congress will continue to work across the aisle to secure a prosperous future for the people, businesses and communities that rely on our marine fisheries," the group said in a statement. President Donald Trump also released a statement on New Year's Eve saying he was signing the act into law, but adding that the new laws grow the power of regional fishery management councils that operate along the nation's coasts. He said that raises "constitutional concerns."

Some conservation groups heralded the passage of the laws as a win. Matt Tinning, associate vice president for the oceans program of the Environmental Defense Fund, said the Modern Fish Act started out as a potential threat to conservation goals but morphed into an environmentally-sound law over a year of negotiations.

"We can all be proud to



In this Sept. 5, 2018 file photo, Tim Hitchens, of Gulfport, Miss., pulls in a fish while fishing from a pier in the Gulf of Mexico, the morning after Tropical Storm Gordon made landfall nearby, in Biloxi, Miss.

Associated Press

have reached agreement on a bill that responds to the demands of recreational fishing advocates

without jeopardizing either sustainability or Americans' access to local seafood," he said. □

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## Criminalizing 1st-time DUIs is a tough sell in Wisconsin

By **TODD RICHMOND**  
Associated Press

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — With a new Democratic ally in the governor's office, a handful of Republican lawmakers are pushing for Wisconsin to join the rest of the country and criminalize first-offense drunken driving.

On paper it might look like a can't-miss bipartisan initiative, but it's not that easy in a state where beer is so much a part of the culture that the major league baseball team is called the Brewers. Powerful Republican opponents are already lining up against the idea, calling it impractical and too expensive.

"We want to feel like we're really being strict on drunk drivers," said Republican state Sen. Van Wanggaard, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee and an opponent of criminalizing first offense. "But it's not about punishing that person that made that poor choice. It's about directing them to make good choices."

Wisconsin's love affair with booze dates to statehood. Milwaukee has served as home to some of the country's biggest brewers, including Pabst, Schlitz, Miller and Blatz. The Princeton Review in 2017 rated the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the school with the most beer. And last year the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released a survey in which one in four Wisconsin respondents reported binge-drinking at least once in the past month, the second-highest rate among the states behind only North Dakota.



In this Jan. 7, 2019 file photo, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers addresses the audience after Evers was sworn in during the inauguration ceremony at the state Capitol in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

Along with all the drinking has come carnage on the roads. The state ranks 20th in population but has landed among the top 15 states for drunken-driving arrests every year from 2005 through 2017, according to the latest statistics compiled by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers. From 2005 through 2009 the state ranked in the top 10 for DUI arrests.

In 2015 alone, nearly 200 people were killed and an additional 2,900 were injured in alcohol-related crashes in the state, according to the latest state Department of Transportation data.

At a time when some states have talked about lower-

ing their DUI limit — Utah just set its threshold at a national low of 0.05 percent blood alcohol content — Wisconsin remains the only state in the nation that treats a first offense as a civil violation akin to a speeding ticket rather than a crime.

For years, Republican state Rep. Jim Ott and Sen. Alberta Darling have been proposing legislation aimed at drunken driving. Ott has been on a decadelong quest after a drunken driver killed constituent Judy Jenkins' pregnant daughter and 10-year-old granddaughter in 2008. Ott promised her he would do everything he could to crack down on drunken driving.

The Assembly overwhelm-

ingly passed their 2013 proposal to make a first offense a misdemeanor, but the Senate did nothing with it. The powerful Tavern League of Wisconsin was officially neutral on the bill, but state agencies estimated it would cost more than \$5 million to hire enough prosecutors and public defenders to handle the influx of new court cases.

Enter newly elected Democratic Gov. Tony Evers. He made waves during his campaign when he said he's open to criminalizing first offenses. He repeated it days before his inauguration.

"We have to find ways to make that first offense more meaningful to the

offenders so they don't offend again or don't offend the first time," Evers said. "Whether that's making it a felony or not, I'm not sure."

The next day, Ott and Darling reintroduced their measure to make a first offense a misdemeanor. They tweaked it so offenders could seek expungement if they avoid a second offense for five years.

Even with Evers in their corner, the measure appears doomed.

"It would take legislative leadership to change their mindset on criminalizing first offense," said Frank Harris, MADD's director of state government affairs. "It depends on if the tavern league would allow them to do it."

Scott Stenger, the league's chief lobbyist, didn't return messages. Wanggaard, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, called the bill a non-starter. Criminalizing a first offense would saddle people with a criminal record that could affect their job prospects for five years, he said.

"Do we want to destroy people's lives with a notation on their record that's going to keep their opportunities down to nothing because they made one mistake?" Wanggaard, a former police officer, said. Ott acknowledged that the bill's prospects look dim. "We've got to try," he said. "We just keeping seeing these terrible situations (on the roads).

This just keeps going on. All we can do is put the legislation out there and do the best we can to get it passed. It at least opens up the discussion." □

# Man who killed officer said he was hit by ultrasonic waves

**DAVIS, Calif. (AP)** — The man who shot and killed a rookie California police officer left a letter on the bed in the home where he lived claiming police bombarded him with ultrasonic waves, officials said.

Police in the college town of Davis near Sacramento on Saturday made public the one-paragraph letter they said was written by Kevin Douglas Limbaugh, 48. He killed himself Thursday after fatally shooting Officer Natalie Corona.

Police spokesman Lt. Paul Doroshov said the paper was found face up on the gunman's bed. "The Davis Police department has been hitting me with ultra sonic (sic) waves meant to keep dogs from barking," the letter said. "I notified the press, internal affairs, and even the FBI about it. I am highly sensitive to its affect (sic) on my inner ear. I did my best to appease them, but they have continued for years and I can't live this way anymore."

The handwritten note was signed "Citizen Kevin Limbaugh." Also recovered as evidence from the man's home were two unregistered guns.

Davis police did not immediately respond Sunday to a telephone message seeking comment on whether Limbaugh had reported his claims to officials.

Investigators have not identified a motive for the ambush shooting of the 22-year-old officer as she investigated a car accident.

The Sacramento Bee re-

ported that court documents show Limbaugh was charged and convicted in a battery case last fall, and he agreed in November to surrender the weapon.

The case stemmed from Limbaugh getting arrested in September for assaulting someone at Cache Creek Casino, Yolo County Sheriff's Sgt. Matthew Davis said.

Authorities have not determined where Limbaugh obtained the two semi-automatic handguns he was believed to have used in the Thursday night attack that killed Corona.

Police said a gunman on a bicycle ambushed the officer, shooting her from the shadows as she investigated a car accident, then reloaded and narrowly avoided wounding others before walking home.

At his house a few blocks away, he casually chatted with his roommate as if nothing happened and even went outside to watch as police from around the region began rushing to the shooting scene, Davis Police Chief Darren Pytel said Friday.

The gunman left behind a backpack that helped police track him to the house. The chief said as police began to surround it, he stepped outside wearing a bulletproof vest.

"He shouted some stuff, went back in and came back out with a firearm, then went back inside, pushed a couch in front of the door and officers heard a gunshot," Pytel said.

Police eventually sent a robotic camera in and found

the gunman had shot himself in the head.

Police found the handguns in the home.

The shooting devastated the Davis Police Department, which has about 60 sworn officers and about 30 other employees.

Corona was the first officer in the department to die in the line of duty since 1959. She had only been patrolling solo for about two weeks, the chief said.

A candlelight vigil for the slain officer was held Saturday night. □



This 2018 booking photo released by the Yolo County Sheriff's Office shows Kevin Douglas Limbaugh.

Associated Press

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## Poland: Mayor stabbed on stage, condition very serious

By VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** —

The mayor of a city in Poland was in very serious condition after he was stabbed on stage Sunday during the finale of a large charity event, and Polish media reported details that gave the attack a political element.

Gdansk Mayor Pawel Adamowicz was attacked with a knife while he stood on stage, held his belly and collapsed during the "Lights to Heaven" fundraiser organized by the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, Poland's most important charity.

Polish President Andrzej Duda said he was informed that "doctors succeeded in reanimating the heart of the seriously injured Mayor Pawel Adamowicz and there is hope, but his con-



In this Saturday, April 21, 2018 file photo, the mayor of Gdansk, Pawel Adamowicz addresses a rally organized in protest against a recent gathering by far-right groups in this Baltic coast city, in Gdansk, Poland.

Associated Press

dition is very difficult." He called on for people to pray for the mayor.

Polish broadcaster TVN reported that the suspected

assailant shouted from the stage that he was imprisoned under a previous national government led by Civic Platform, a party to

which the mayor formerly belonged, despite being innocent. He was arrested. Several Polish media outlets, including Rzeczpos-

polita, reported that the man yelled after stabbing Adamowicz: "Hello! Hello! My name is Stefan, I was jailed but innocent. ... Civic Platform tortured me, that's why Adamowicz just died." Police said he was a 27-year-old with a criminal record and had carried out bank robberies.

Radio Gdansk reported that Adamowicz was stabbed in the area of his heart, but did not cite its source, while Rzeczpospolita described his condition as "critical," citing unnamed sources. A spokesman for the hospital called his condition "very serious."

TVN footage showed Adamowicz on stage just before the attack with a sparkler in hand telling the audience that it had been a "wonderful day" and then the attacker coming toward him. □

## French far-right leader wants EU election to 'beat' Macron



French far-right leader Marine le Pen delivers her speech during a campaign meeting in Paris, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

By SYLVIE CORBET

**PARIS (AP)** — France's far-right National Rally party launched its campaign Sunday for this year's European Parliament election, which it and other nationalist, anti-immigration movements hope to dominate.

During a speech in Paris, party leader Marine Le Pen urged voters to seize the May 26 vote as a chance to "beat" French President Emmanuel Macron after weeks of anti-government protests.

"The moment of the big

political changeover has come," Le Pen said of the hoped-for wins by nationalist movements like hers.

"What we propose is a quiet transition from the European Union to the European alliance of nations...that will allow us to reconquer our border control, our legislative, budget and monetary sovereignty", she said. French voters will fill 79 of the European Union legislature's 705 seats. Le Pen's party placed first in France during the 2014 election and has a good chance to do the same this year.

National Rally's campaign slogan was unveiled in giant letters at Sunday's meeting: "We're coming." Le Pen suggested the yellow vest protests against Macron's economic policies during the last two

months could help her populist party at the ballot box. The movement started to oppose fuel tax increases but expanded to challenge government policies seen as favoring the wealthy. The movement appeared to gain new momentum this weekend. The French Interior Ministry said about 84,000 people turned out on Saturday for the ninth straight round of demonstrations across France, up from 50,000 the previous week.

"Today, it's inevitable that the yellow vests are part of the national context and will influence, of course, the elections," National Rally activist William Courtin said at the party meeting. "In our favor, I hope." The French president's of-

fice issued a "letter to the French" from Macron on Sunday evening. He explained how he planned to address the yellow vests movement's concerns through a three-month "grand debate" taking place through meetings in all the country's regions starting this week.

In the letter, Macron encouraged the public to use the debate to express views on four main topics: taxes, public services, climate change and democratic issues.

"That's how I want to turn angers into solutions with you," he wrote.

The French leader said the debate would help the government develop policies and France's position on the European and international scene. □



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## Italian fugitive captured 3 decades after murder conviction

By NICOLE WINFIELD

**ROME (AP)** — A left-wing Italian militant who was convicted of murder in his home country nearly three decades ago was arrested in Bolivia, authorities said Sunday, setting the stage for a climactic end to one of Italy's longest-running efforts to bring a fugitive to justice.

The Italian government sent an aircraft to pick up Cesare Battisti, who was captured by Bolivian and Italian police in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, where he was located by intelligence agents after using one of his mobile devices, Italian police and RAI state television said.

The 64-year-old had been living openly in Brazil for years and enjoyed the protection of left-wing governments on both sides of the Atlantic. But Brazil's outgoing president signed a decree last month ordering his extradition, apparently sparking Battisti's latest effort to flee.

Italian police released a video of Battisti they said was taken hours before his capture, showing him seemingly oblivious to surveillance cameras tracking him as he walked casually down the street in jeans, a blue T-shirt and sunglasses. A subsequent image showed Battisti's mug shot under the seal of the Bolivian police.

"Cesare Battisti's long flight is over," Justice Minister Alfonso Buonafede declared, adding that he would be taken to Rome's Rebibbia prison as soon as he landed in Italy.



In this April 12, 2012 file photo, Italian Cesare Battisti attends the presentation of his book about his experience in prison in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Battisti was expected to return to Rome aboard the Italian aircraft direct from Santa Cruz "in the coming hours," Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said. He said Italy, and the families of Battisti's victims, had waited too long for justice.

Battisti escaped from an Italian prison in 1981 while awaiting trial on four counts of murder allegedly committed when he was a member of the Armed Proletarians for Communism. He was convicted in absentia in 1990 and faces a life term for the deaths of two police officers, a jeweler and a butcher.

He acknowledged membership in the group but denied killing anyone and has painted himself as a political refugee.

After initially fleeing to Mexico, he then went to

France, where he joined dozens of left-wing Italian militants who enjoyed official protection from the French government.

Like Battisti, they fled during Italy's "years of lead," a bloody and turbulent era during the 1970s and 1980s when militants on the left and right carried out bombings, assassinations and other violent acts to try to bring down the Italian government.

After political winds shifted in France, Battisti fled to Brazil in 2004 to avoid being extradited. He was arrested in Rio de Janeiro in 2007, prompting the Italian government to request that he be handed over. But former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva granted him asylum in 2010.

Battisti was eventually released from jail but was ar-

rested again in 2017 after he was caught trying to cross the Brazil-Bolivia border carrying the equivalent of about \$7,500 in undeclared cash. He was released after a few days.

As a result of that incident, Brazilian Supreme Federal Tribunal Justice Luiz Fux said in December that Interpol had issued a request for Battisti's arrest on tax evasion and money laundering charges, leading him to issue a Brazilian warrant. Based on that, outgoing Brazilian President Michel Temer signed the decree ordering the fugitive's extradition.

Brazil's new right-wing president, Jair Bolsonaro, hailed Battisti's arrest and denounced da Silva's government for having granted the Italian asylum.

"Finally, there will be justice

for the Italian assassin and partner of ideas of one of the most corrupt governments to ever exist," Bolsonaro tweeted in a reference to da Silva's Workers' Party. Bolivia's public defender, David Tezanos, said Battisti formally requested asylum in Bolivia on Dec. 21, but he had not received a response from the leftist government of President Evo Morales. Tezanos warned that Battisti's rights were being violated with his hasty expulsion.

Throughout the day Sunday it was unclear if Battisti would need to be transferred first to Brazilian custody before being extradited, but by the end of the day it was established he would fly to Italy directly from Bolivia.

Brazil's foreign and justice ministries said in a joint statement that Battisti "will leave Bolivia direct to Italy to serve his life sentence." The statement was significant, since under Brazilian law people extradited to serve life sentences must have their sentences capped at 30 years — a concession Italian officials on Sunday dismissed in insisting that Battisti serve his full term.

Bolivian government minister Carlos Romero said he would be turned over to Italian authorities in Santa Cruz on the grounds that he had entered the country in an irregular way and was obliged to leave. Citing Bolivia's migration regulations, he said Battisti was to be handed over to Italian Interpol agents at the local airport. □

# Arab nations inch toward rehabilitating Syria's Assad

By ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — He has survived eight years of war and billions of dollars in money and weapons aimed at toppling him. Now Syrian President Bashar Assad is poised to be readmitted to the fold of Arab nations, a feat once deemed unthinkable as he forcefully crushed the uprising against his family's rule.

Gulf Arab nations, once the main backers of rebels trying to oust Assad, are lining up to reopen their embassies in Syria, worried about leaving the country at the heart of the Arab world to regional rivals Iran and Turkey and missing out on lucrative post-war reconstruction projects. Key border crossings with neighbors, shuttered for years by the war, have reopened, and Arab commercial airlines are reportedly considering resuming flights to Damascus.

And as President Donald Trump plans to pull out America's 2,000 soldiers from northeastern Syria, government troops are



In this March 11, 2009 file photo, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, right, welcomes Syrian President Bashar Assad upon his arrival to attend the Arab Summit, in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Associated Press

primed to retake the area they abandoned in 2012 at the height of the war. This would be a significant step toward restoring Assad's control over all of Syria, leaving only the northwest in the hands of rebels, most of them jihadis.

It can seem like a mind-boggling reversal for a leader whose military once seemed dangerously close to collapse. But Russia's military intervention, which began in 2015, steadily reversed Assad's losses, allowing his troops, aided by Iranian-backed fighters, to recapture cities like Homs and Aleppo, key to his rule. Assad rules over a country in ruins, with close to half a million people killed and half the population displaced. Major fighting may still lie ahead. But many see the war nearing its end, and the 53-year-old leader is sitting more comfortably than he has in the past eight years.

"Rehabilitation by Arab states is inevitable," said Faysal Itani, a resident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East.

A key motive for Sunni Muslim Gulf countries is to blunt the involvement of their Shiite-led foe, Iran, which saw its influence expand rapidly in the chaos of Syria's war. "Saudi Arabia tried briefly to help overthrow him when he seemed most vulnerable using proxy militants," Itani said. "With his regime likely to survive, however, Saudi Arabia would prefer to try and exercise influence over Assad to bal-

ance against Iran while avoiding escalation with Iran itself."

After Assad led a crackdown on protesters in 2011, Syria was cast out as a pariah by much of the Arab and Western world. It lost its seat at the Arab League and was hit by crippling sanctions by the international community, as the U.S. and European diplomats closed their diplomatic missions.

But Syria's isolation was never complete. China, Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa maintained diplomatic ties. In the Arab world, Lebanon, Iraq and Algeria never broke ranks with Syria. Propped up by Russia, China and Iran, Assad never really felt the pinch politically.

A Saudi attempt to patch up relations with Assad would be a public acknowledgement of the kingdom's failure to oust him. At the same time, the involvement of Gulf Arab governments and private companies is crucial for any serious reconstruction effort in Syria. Reconstruction costs are estimated between \$200 and \$350 billion.

Last month, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, himself an international outcast, flew to Damascus on

a Russian jet, becoming the first Arab leader to visit Syria since 2011. The visit was largely seen as a precursor for similar steps by other Arab leaders.

On Dec. 27, the United Arab Emirates reopened its embassy in Damascus with a public ceremony, in the most significant Arab overture yet toward the Assad government, almost certainly coordinated with Saudi Arabia. The Bahrain Embassy followed the next day.

The debate now appears to be about when, not whether, to re-admit Syria to the Arab League. At a meeting in Cairo on Wednesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri said Syria's return to the League is connected to developments on the political track to end the crisis.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mo-hamed Alhakim, speaking in Baghdad at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart, said Sunday that his country supports efforts to restore Syria's membership in the Arab League. In Lebanon, some officials insist Syria should be invited to an Arab economic summit the country is hosting next week, although final decision rests with the League.

"It could happen slower or faster, but if Assad is going to stay where he is, then obviously countries in the region are going to try to make the best of that situation," said Aron Lund, a fellow with The Century Foundation. "American politicians can sit in splendid isolation on the other side of an ocean and pretend Syria isn't what it is," he said. "But King Abdullah of Jordan can't."

The Arab overtures come amid a shifting landscape in the Western world.

The planned U.S. pullout from Syria is part of Trump's "America First" policy. He has repeatedly said he was not interested in removing Assad from power or keeping American troops involved in "endless wars" in the region, most recently describing Syria as "sand and death." □



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## Bare-handed surgeries as Zimbabwe's health system collapses

**HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)** —

A doctors' strike in Zimbabwe has crippled a health system that was already in intensive care from neglect. It mirrors the state of affairs in a country that was full of promise a year ago with the departure of longtime leader Robert Mugabe but now faces economic collapse.

Doctors describe grim conditions: Bare-handed surgeries. Plastic bread bags used to collect patients' urine. Broken-down machines. Zimbabwe's health sector, once considered one of the best in Africa, is on its knees.

"It's so sad. The hospitals are empty, the patients are being turned away to die somewhere else," said Prince Butau, treasurer of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association, which represents about 1,000 doctors who anchor government hospitals. A new president's promises of change have turned out to be empty.

"Affordable quality health care guaranteed," read campaign billboards for President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former Mugabe protégé, ahead of the July 2018 election. Six months after he narrowly won the disputed vote, Zimbabwe's health sector has widespread shortages of basic medicines such as painkillers and contraceptives.

Mnangagwa and others in the country's political and economic elite receive medical care mainly in neighboring South Africa, while Mugabe frequently visits Singapore for treatment.

At home, everyday Zimbabweans seeking health care have had to bring their own drugs, syringes, bandages and, at times, water.



In this Jan. 9, 2019, photo, a family collects the body of their son who died at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Associated Press

Government hospitals were paralyzed by the five-week doctors' strike that "be-grudgingly" sputtered to an end on Thursday with no resolution for their demands. The end brings no improvement in conditions. In November, the Zimbabwe Medical Association, which represents health workers, warned that patients were "relapsing" and "deteriorating" while operations were being cancelled due to shortages of medicines.

The situation, coupled with low salaries, forced doctors to strike, Butau said.

Without adequate gloves, doctors sometimes use their bare hands while masks and goggles are nonexistent, he said. "We are exposed to fluids, blood spillage, HIV and hepatitis B." He has seen rope used in place of bandages. "We cannot keep on doing that," he said.

One of the striking doctors, Wallace Hlambelo, described using everyday plastic bags with catheters

for some elderly patients. "What we were doing was not to treat patients. Patients feel you have done something but you would have done nothing. That's not medicine," he said.

Early this month, Mnangagwa cut short his annual leave to help resolve the doctors' strike. The problem may widen after the Apex Council, which represents all government workers, on Tuesday gave notice to strike if Zimbabwe's government fails to pay salaries in U.S. dollars.

The government has said it cannot afford to pay in dollars, Zimbabwe's de facto currency. Many government workers are paid in quickly devaluing electronic money instead, forcing them to tap the black market at risk of arrest.

At government hospitals, the situation has been desperate.

At Parirenyatwa Hospital, the largest in Zimbabwe, the usually busy corridors were silent when The Associated Press visited on

Monday. In the pediatric section, beds were empty while other wards were barely occupied as the hospital, like others, only accepted the direst of cases.

Patients began to trickle in after some doctors returned, but on the day the strike ended, one family at Parirenyatwa said they were collecting the body of their son and blamed his

death on the strike. They carried his coffin out to a waiting truck.

Poor funding is a major cause of the health system's collapse, said Itai Rusike, director of Community Working Group on Health, a non-governmental organization.

Zimbabwe's finance minister has allocated \$694 million for the health sector in 2019 against an annual need of \$1.3 billion. To return the sector to its former glory days, the health ministry said it needs about \$8 billion, which is the entire government budget for 2019.

The burden falls on impoverished patients.

"The hospital has nothing but we are running out of money because the pharmacies are demanding U.S. dollars," said Nobert Nzonzo, who accompanied his 77-year-old father for dialysis at Parirenyatwa Hospital.

At times, they have spent an entire day without being helped due to machine breakdowns while the doctors' strike means his father could not be checked for catheter-associated infections, Nzonzo said. □

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# Venezuelan congress leader briefly detained amid standoff

By **FABIOLA SANCHEZ**  
**JOSHUA GOODMAN**  
Associated Press  
**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— The new head of Venezuela's increasingly defiant congress was pulled from his vehicle and briefly detained by police Sunday, a day after the U.S. backed him assuming the presidency as a way out of the country's deepening crisis. The confusing incident, which drew swift international condemnation, is bound to ramp up tensions between the opposition and government following President Nicolas Maduro's swearing in for a controversial second term this month. A video circulating on social media purports to show the moment in which Juan



Juan Guaido, president of National Assembly, shows marks on his wrists, which he says are from handcuffs, to supporters at a rally in Caraballeda, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

Guaido is intercepted on his way to an anti-government town hall meeting in the port city of La Guaira. In the video shot on a cellphone by a motorist stuck in traffic, several men in ski

masks and carrying assault weapons are seen struggling to shut the door on someone being pushed into an SUV before racing down a highway. While it was not possible

to identify Guaido in the 33-second video, his wife, Fabiana Rosales, said on Twitter that he had been detained by a commando unit of the feared SEBIN intelligence police. As news of his detention spread, he was then released.

"We are going to fulfill our constitutional duties," Guaido said a group of cheering supporters at the rally. "We are survivors — not victims, and we are going to move this country forward." Adding to the confusion, the government tried to shift the blame to Guaido's allies, with Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez saying that the "media show" had perhaps been orchestrated to provoke an international uproar.

Still, he acknowledged that police officers had partook in the arrest and said they would be disciplined.

"We want to inform the people of Venezuela that the officials who took that upon themselves are being dismissed," Rodriguez said on state TV.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Venezuela's security forces to uphold its citizens' constitutional rights, singling out Intelligence Chief Manuel Cristopher Figueroa. "The U.S. and the world are watching," Pompeo tweeted.

A coalition of 13 Latin American countries and Canada condemned Guaido's "arbitrary" detention targeting the head of the National Assembly. □

# Protesting Colombians call for chief prosecutor to resign



In this Nov. 28, 2018 photo, demonstrators burn banners during a march demanding more money for education and protest tax reform in Bogotá, Colombia.

Associated Press

By **MANUEL RUEDA**  
**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — Thousands of Colombians staged protests in several cities Friday to demand the resignation of the country's chief prosecutor. Nestor Humberto Martinez is a key U.S. ally in the war on drugs, but his critics at home say he has withheld

information that links Colombian politicians and business groups with Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, which is at the center of a mammoth regional corruption scandal involving bribes to win government contracts.

As the sun set on Colombia's capital, protesters

gathered outside Martinez's heavily guarded office carrying flashlights to "shine a light" on what they called the country's corrupt institutions. They also carried Odebrecht signs and held posters claiming Martinez was a stooge of the company.

"We want Colombia to be a decent country, and having someone like Martinez as our chief prosecutor is simply unethical," said Diego Carrero, a university professor at the protest. Protesters said they were encouraged by recent developments in Peru, where Attorney General Pedro Chavarry was forced to resign amid allegations that he tried to obstruct an Odebrecht investigation in that nation.

Opposition parties in Colombia have long claimed that Martinez is riddled with conflicts of interest that make him unsuitable for his

job. Before becoming Colombia's chief prosecutor in 2016, he was legal counsel for the Aval Group, a New York Stock Exchange-listed banking conglomerate that partnered with Odebrecht to develop a \$2 billion highway project in central Colombia whose financing is currently under investigation.

Martinez's reputation nosedived in November when a local news channel aired a recording of a phone call in which Martinez can be heard berating an internal auditor who had suggested Odebrecht was bribing politicians to secure the lucrative highway contract. Martinez screams profanities at the auditor and tells him not to discuss his findings with anyone else.

The recording dates from 2015, when Martinez was a lawyer for Aval. But it wasn't released until after

the auditor, Jorge Enrique Pizano, was found dead in his home. Pizano's son died a few days later after drinking a glass of water laced with cyanide that he found on his father's desk, sparking a series of conspiracy theories. Martinez has said he had nothing to do with Pizano's death.

After he became chief prosecutor, Martinez formally recused himself from the Odebrecht investigation. His office has charged a deputy minister and a former senator with taking bribes and issued arrest orders for several middlemen. Martinez also has accused Odebrecht of paying almost \$50 million in bribes in Colombia, or more than four times what the company acknowledged in a 2016 plea bargain with U.S. authorities admitting to paying \$788 million in bribes to win contracts in 12 nations. □

## LOCAL



## Native Stories in Aruba Today's New Column: Island Insight

ORANJESTAD — Passionate people are a delight to listen to, naturally depending their topic of passion. A couple of weeks ago Aruba Today met an inspirational man: Anthony Croes, owner and curator of Etnia Nativa, a museum or better a unique cultural experience center, where he has established his home and atelier since 2003. We are more than happy to announce Anthony as our new columnist. He will enrich the newspaper every Tuesday with his knowledge on the cultural heritage, flora and fauna of our Happy Island. His column, **Island Insight**, will definitely show you Aruba from a different perspective. Welcome Anthony!

Aruba Today visited Anthony at his home Etnia Nativa and you can have a look yourself to learn about this amazing place on Facebook Aruba Today under Videos Ask Pilar – Etnia Nativa. Now let us introduce Anthony to you.

### Homage to Heritage

Anthony Croes was born in Aruba 13 April 1961. He is an Etnia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a kid, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ances-



tor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that art soon became his yoga and took more time of his life he expected. This was after having suffered a serious spinal accident during a rain storm. So it was only a matter of time that he seriously considered art also as a full-time entertainment. This later gave way to be invited by many and various artists and curators to exhibit his work. On the other hand, it is perhaps understandable for someone of his generation and interest to pursue only one 'single' career.

Since this, he has come a long way in the notoriously hard to crack



Aruban art world.

Anthony's work is indicative of a more sophisticated re-invigoration of the islands indigenous aspect which is gaining force in contemporary art circles. Anthony explains that his work is an Aruban as it gets a blend of two totally different continents mind the old and the conquered with native's Aruban approaching ". In this way, Anthony circumvents the conventional dichotomy between the 'traditional' and the 'avant-garde'.

Initially, he established a studio called Shidaharaca in Oranjestad in 1998.

Anthony is currently the owner and curator of Etnia Nativa Art Gallery – Museum.

A unique cultural experience center, where he has established his home and atelier since 2003. For more information regarding the artist: Etnia Nativa, Westpunt 37-A, Noord, Aruba. Telephone 00 297-592-2702, email [etniana03@gmail.com](mailto:etniana03@gmail.com), website [www.etniana-tiva.facebook.com](http://www.etniana-tiva.facebook.com). □



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All visitors of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba have the opportunity to participate to win this amazing car by being

or becoming a member of the VIP Club where they can enjoy unique benefits. Players can start to accumulate points as of January 7th to receive raffle tickets in order to participate. For every 80 points on the slot machines and for every \$40 of theoretical win on tables the player will receive one raffle ticket. The winner of the car will be selected in December 2019. During the year there will be different incentives for players to increase their amount of tickets to participate.

For more participation details of the Ferrari 488 Spider campaign, please visit The VIP Desk at The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton Aruba or contact 00 297 527-2276/ 00 297 527-2277. □



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**ORANJESTAD** — The legendary Donkey Walk, an annual highlight on the Donkey Sanctuary's calendar, is coming up. On Saturday, January 19 the famous 5 K walk will take place. This walk through Aruba's gorgeous countryside will be accompanied by donkeys Diva, Igor and Simba; runners are also welcome to cover the distance.

The route starts at the Sanctuary at Bringamosa and will take participants via Boton, Jan Fleming and the Frenchmen's Pass back to Bringamosa. There will be

water and soft drinks along the way and at the finish there will be the customary fresh fruit courtesy of Super-Food.

The start of the Donkey Walk 2019 is at 5 pm; registration is possible starting at 4 pm - both at the Sanctuary at Bringamosa.

For just 10 florins per person, you will be able to support the good work of the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary and be active at the same time. Would you like to know more about the Sanctuary, volunteering or the annual



Donkey Walk: please call 00 297 593 2933 or come by in person. More information also at: Facebook Donkey Sanctuary Aruba. You are very welcome! ☐

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## It's A Wrap



**ORANJESTAD —** Aruba Today recently launched it's very first video of the series 'Ask Pilar' at Facebook Aruba Today and on our website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com). Let us introduce to you this fresh new project and the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides our daily printed free newspaper, our posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variation to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places of any kind. We are all new to this, but goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, moreover motivate with the content and topic as well as the good energy coming from it." Aruba Today will publish two or more videos per week and the concept will be interactive. Meaning that as the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already reveals, the viewer has the tool to actually ask about the topics shown

or maybe even suggest a location/topic for a video. Just ask our host Pilar through Facebook comments or messenger.

### THE TEAM

Pilar Flores, 33 years old, is the jolly Video Host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves

# #AskPilar

doing the videos because she gets to meet a lot of nice people and to know many interesting places. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do." Flores is Executive Editor at Bon Dia Newspaper, Aruba Today's sister, where she is fond of being up to date on all current happenings and events and having the inside information. She has a Bachelor of Theology, achieved in Aberdeen, Scotland and a Masters of Applied Ethics in Utrecht, The Netherlands. "In my leisure time I like to walk in Arikok National park, play with my three cats, color and spend time with my boyfriend." The one capturing the images with his camera and edit them into the end result is our Videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a junior marketer there is a lot of moving around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like." His hobbies include photography,

gaming, and working on his car. "I am not a car mechanic, however YouTube helps a lot and I find it very therapeutic to put everything aside and work on this piece of metal that helps me move long distances." Juan Luis loves to capture moments with his camera and edit them into a dynamic video. Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017 and before that for six years with the local newspaper in Dutch, Amigoe di Aruba as a journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine H&H. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we for sure hope that rubs off to the viewer." Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □





# Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

## No Room at the Inn

**ORANJESTAD —** High season in Aruba traditionally runs from the last two weeks in December to the first two weeks in April, which coincides with the worst parts of winter in some of our target markets. However, the undisputed busiest time of the entire period is that one week between Christmas and New Year's. The availability Island-wide drops to practically 1% of inventory and most of that is made up of people who had to cancel at the very last minute for one reason or another.

This year was no different, with practically every hotel on the Island filled to the brim and many travelers still looking for a place to stay. Like airlines, it isn't uncommon for hotels to overbook rooms in the knowledge that not everyone will show up, or because of ticket prices others will choose different days to arrive. We count on that in order to house any additional bookings we may receive.



Of course sometimes that gamble doesn't always go your way and then you're left with only one other option; reassigning guests to a different resort that has availability. Although it can be stressful, due to all the frantic phone calls and emails the reservations department has to send to see who may have availability and at what cost, the procedure for selecting who will be reassigned is a fairly simple process. Simple for us in reservations, not so much for our poor colleagues at the front desk who are in the line of fire, advising a guest who has been on an hours long flight from the wee hours of the morning, that they won't be staying at the hotel the originally booked for their vacation.

In most cases, all things being equal, such as rate paid and room type booked, it just boils down to first come, first serve. Essentially at this point the front desk receives all expected reservations and the list of available rooms at the resort, once that inventory has been completely sold off then they look at who has yet to arrive. Once we have determined how many rooms we actually need, we start to reconfirm with our colleagues at the other resorts and letting them know how many rooms we need and for how many nights we need them. Obviously this may come at a cost difference, which our guests do not have to pick up, since it really isn't their fault that the hotel was overbooked, usually the overbooked resort will pick up any difference in the rate to accommodate the guests.

In bigger places these changes in assignment can be done on a company level where you go from one Hyatt to another or one Marriott to another, however in Aruba that's not an option to move within the same brand. In these instances your nearest competitor becomes your ally united in the common goal of housing your guests for a few nights or for the entirety of their stay. Even when there seems there may not be any room at the inn, at least online, using the spirit of cooperation fostered through time and experiences, we will make sure no guest is left without a roof over their heads during their stay in paradise. □



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

# SPORTS



Matt Kuchar hits from the third fairway during the third round of the Sony Open PGA Tour golf event, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, at Waialae Country Club in Honolulu.

Associated Press

## Kuchar leads Sony Open by 2 shots

By DOUG FERGUSON  
HONOLULU (AP) — Matt Kuchar made it look easy Saturday in the Sony Open. With no bogeys on his card, it even felt easy to him. Beneath that cap is plenty of gray hair. Beneath that smile, he knows better. "Listen, the game of golf is not easy," Kuchar said after a 4-under 66 to take a two-shot lead over Andrew Putnam into the final round. "It's not often you're in full control. Those times you're not in full control, you're faced with a lot of situations where golf is going to find a way to stress you out and test you." He gets another test Sunday, and Kuchar at least is equipped with recent experience.

Continued on Page 22



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady passes between Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Uchenna Nwosu (42) and defensive back Desmond King (20) during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press  
Page 20

# Ibaka's 3-pointer helps Raptors survive Wizards in double OT

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Toronto Raptors began with a rush. They scored the first nine points against the Washington Wizards, built a 19-point lead in the first quarter and went ahead by 23 in the second quarter.

Near the end of the third quarter, Toronto still led by 17 points. Then Washington got hot and forced one overtime and then another.

Serge Ibaka's 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in the second overtime allowed the Raptors to survive and earn their fifth straight win, 140-138 over the Wizards on Sunday.

"It shouldn't come down to the last possession," Kawhi Leonard said. "We need to close out games better."

Leonard, who played a season-high 45 minutes, led Toronto with 41 points and 11 rebounds.

"Tonight he played like a superstar," Ibaka said. "That's how we need him to play and he did his job as a superstar. When we need him to step up and make big plays, he did them for us." Bradley Beal had his second triple-double of the season, collecting season highs of 43 points and 15 assists along with 10 rebounds. His 3-pointer with 20.4 seconds left in regulation tied it at 124 to force overtime. His jumper with 6.8 seconds to play in the first overtime tied it at 131.

Beal joined Oscar Robertson as the only players in NBA history with multiple games of 40 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds in a season. Robertson had three such games in 1961-62.

He didn't have much to say about it, though, leaving the locker room before it opened to the media as the Wizards scrambled to make a flight to London for its next game.

Washington never led until early in the second overtime.

Leonard had 13 straight points in the fourth quarter and overtime. Toronto

missed seven of nine from the field in the second OT and didn't score for nearly 3½ minutes, but Washington could only push ahead by three points during that stretch.

"We got lucky to get out of here with a win," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Pascal Siakam scored 24 and had a career-high 19 rebounds for the Raptors.

Otto Porter, who had 27 points, missed a 3-pointer with 6 seconds to play in the second OT.

Trevor Ariza narrowly missed his second career triple-double. He had 23 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds before fouling out with 44.7 seconds left.

TIP-INS

Raptors: F/G C.J. Miles was out with a sore right hip. "Miles has been struggling," Nurse said. "We tried to give him a go the other night. He still wasn't quite right. We're going to try and see if we can get him a little more squared away with what's wrong with him. ... G Fred VanVleet did not play because of a bruised left thigh. "Freddy took a big shot the other night late in the game," Nurse said.

Wizards: G Tomas Satoransky, who had his first career triple-double on Friday, had just four points on 2-for-13 shooting. ... Beal missed eight of nine shots in the first quarter. ... F Jeff Green was assessed a technical foul.

LONDON CALLING

Washington will face the New York Knicks in London on Thursday.

"We want to enjoy it," coach Scott Brooks said. "We're not going to be there where you're just going to focus on basketball. We all have lives. We all

want to live a fun life.

"It's a great time. It's a players' and coaches' dream. You get to go to a cool city. We have some pretty cool things planned, some great sights to see, dinners to attend, some appearances to make. That's part of being in the NBA. It's a responsibility that we all have and we all share."

LIFE WITHOUT WALL

Washington is getting used to playing without John Wall, who underwent season-ending left heel surgery on Jan. 8. The Wizards beat Philadelphia and Milwaukee, two of the East's top teams, before narrowly losing to Toronto, which has the best record in the NBA.



Washington Wizards guard Bradley Beal (3) goes to the basket against Toronto Raptors forward OG Anunoby (3) and guard Kyle Lowry (7) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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# Michel scores 3 TDs, Patriots roll past Chargers 41-28

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— Sony Michel ran for 129 yards and had three touchdowns and the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Chargers 41-28 in the divisional playoffs on Sunday to earn their eighth straight trip to the AFC championship game.

New England (12-5) will play at Kansas City in next week's AFC title game. The Patriots beat the Chiefs 43-40 in Foxborough in Week 6. The Patriots finished 9-0 at home this season.

It is the 13th conference championship game appearance by the Patriots during the Tom Brady-Bill Belichick era.

"It's going to be a good game," Brady said of the rematch with the Chiefs. "They're a good team. We played them earlier this year. I know everybody thinks we suck and, you know, we can't win any games, so we'll see. It'll be fun."

The Chargers (13-5) haven't reached the AFC title game since the 2007 season.

Quarterback Philip Rivers finished 25 of 51 for 331 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. He is 0-5 in games played in Fox-



New England Patriots running back Sony Michel heads for the goal line and his second touchdown during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Los Angeles Chargers, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

borough, including 0-3 in the postseason.

Brady finished 34 of 44 for 343 yards and a touchdown. He improves to 8-0 as a starter against Rivers, who drops to 1-8 against New England all-time.

James White tied Darren Sproles' NFL postseason record with 15 catches, totaling 97 yards.

New England scored on its first four possessions of the game to build a 35-7 half-time lead.

Julian Edelman had nine

catches for 151 yards.

The Chargers added three touchdowns in the second half, but it was much too late.

Los Angeles lost for just the second time on the road (8-2) and first time outside Los Angeles this season. In its past four trips to the playoffs, Los Angeles has lost in the divisional round.

"We dug ourselves a hole in the first half," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said.

"One game doesn't define where we are as a football

team."

Rivers seemed poised to keep Los Angeles in the game, connecting with Keenan Allen for a 43-yard score on Los Angeles' first offensive possession. It was the longest touchdown of Allen's career, including the postseason.

It turned out to be just a blip. The Chargers punted the four other times they had the ball in the first half. The Patriots were efficient throughout the opening 30 minutes, going 5 for 5 in

the red zone, 5 of 6 on third down and committing only one penalty.

New England didn't go three-and-out for the first time until its fifth offensive touch of the day when it punted with 3:32 left in the second quarter.

But Ryan Allen's 48-yard punt was fumbled by Desmond King, sending the ball rolling toward the sideline. The referees ruled the ball went out of bounds before New England's Albert McClellan appeared to recover it. But the play was reversed after a challenge by Bill Belichick.

The turnover proved costly, with the Patriots scoring just four plays later when Michel crossed the goal line from 5 yards for his third touchdown of the half.

New England established the run early, creating big holes in a Chargers defense that ended the regular season ranked ninth in the NFL, allowing just 106 rushing yards per game.

Michel carried 16 times for 105 yards in the first half.

He set the tone early, scoring from 1 yard on the opening possession of the game. It capped a 14-play, 83-yard drive in which he rushed five times for 15 yards and had a 9-yard reception. □



In this Dec. 16, 2007, file photo, players from the 1972 Miami Dolphins team, including guard Bob Kuechenberg (67) and defensive tackle Bob Heinz (72), walk off the stage following a ceremony honoring the team at a football game against the Baltimore Ravens at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Former Miami Dolphins guard Bob Kuechenberg, a six-time Pro Bowl selection and member of the only NFL

team to achieve a perfect season, died at age 71.

His death Saturday was confirmed by the Dolphins, who had no further details.

## Former Dolphins guard Bob Kuechenberg dies at age 71

Kuechenberg joined the Dolphins as a free agent in 1970, coach Don Shula's first season, and played for them until 1983. He started every game for the team that went 17-0 in 1972, and started 16 games for the team that repeated as Super Bowl champions in 1973.

Kuechenberg was a finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and a member of the Dolphins' Honor Roll.

"I was sorry to learn of the passing of Bob Kuechenberg, who was not only one of the best players I ever coached but one of

the toughest as well," Shula said in a statement. "He was one of the key performers on our championship teams."

Shula said Kuechenberg played with a broken arm in the 1974 Super Bowl and still dominated Hall of Fame defensive tackle Alan Page as Miami beat Minnesota 24-7. That game was 45 years ago Sunday. Former teammate Jim Langer, a Hall of Fame center, said he stayed in touch with Kuechenberg, spoke with him in the past week and was shocked to learn of his death.

"He was the kind of guy you'd want in your fox-hole," Langer said. "He played hard and was very intense about the game, which was typical of our team. He was my roommate for 10 years, and we talked football damn near all the time."

A native of Gary, Indiana, Kuechenberg played at Notre Dame before being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1969 but never played for them. Kuechenberg's 196 games with the Dolphins was a team record until Dan Marino broke it. □



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# Aho leads Hurricanes past Predators 6-3

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Sebastian Aho and the Carolina Hurricanes got into a groove after Micheal Ferland tangled with Austin Watson.

Aho had three goals and an assist to help Carolina beat the Nashville Predators 6-3 on Sunday.

The Hurricanes won for the seventh time in eight games. There was no score when Ferland fought Wat-

son 8:19 into the first period. "That set the tone," Aho said. "We were all fired up after that."

Ferland, who also had two assists, did the dirty work and Aho handled the scoring. With the early start, Ferland figured the team needed a shot of energy.

"Being an early game, you're not really sure how you feel," Ferland said. "I think it got everyone go-

ing on both benches. It was good."

Justin Williams, Saku Maenalanen and Lucas Wallmark also scored for Carolina, which has won five straight at home. Petr Mrazek made 20 saves for his third win in four starts.

"That was one of our better 60-minute efforts all year," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "I thought we played as solid as we could."

It was the first hat trick of the season for Aho. The All-Star center has five goals in the past two games, running his team-best total to 21 for the season.

He credited linemates Ferland and Teuvo Teravainen for his recent surge.

"They've been feeding me," Aho said.

Nashville, which had earned at least a point in seven straight games, got two goals from Filip Forsberg and another from Colton Sissons, but goaltender Pekka Rinne was chased in the second period.

Carolina had an advantage on special teams with two power-play goals. The Predators got a short-handed goal but went 0 for 5 on the power play.

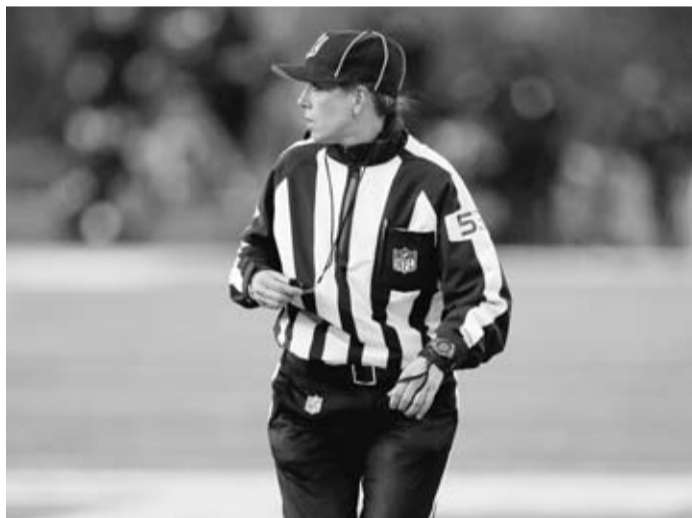
Aho gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead with a breakaway goal 15:44 into the first period. Carolina got a break when the puck bounced off the skate off a Nashville player in the Hurricanes' zone and defenseman Roman Josi fell down, leaving the ice open in front of Aho. "We're finally getting bounces," Ferland said. "We haven't changed the way we play."

Maenalanen made it 2-0



Carolina Hurricanes' Sebastian Aho, left, of Finland, is congratulated by Teuvo Teravainen (86), also of Finland, and Brock McGinn (23) following Aho's goal against the Nashville Predators during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.

Associated Press



Down judge Sarah Thomas works along the sideline during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game between the Los Angeles Chargers and the New England Patriots, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

## Sarah Thomas 1st female on-field NFL playoff game official

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Sarah Thomas is the first woman to work an NFL playoff game as an on-field official.

Thomas was the down judge in Sunday's divisional round game between New England and the Los Angeles Chargers. That's a first, according to the league's Twitter account.

Thomas was hired in 2015 and was already the league's first female full-time official.

Terri Valenti was the replay official in Saturday's playoff game between the Chiefs and Colts, also a first. □

with a one-timer from the slot at 18:15 off a nice feed from Justin Faulk.

The Predators cut Carolina's lead to 2-1 with Sissons' goal 2:48 into the second period, but the Hurricanes responded with three straight scores.

Aho got a beautiful backhanded pass by Ferland and scored a power-play goal at 3:08. Wallmark caught Nashville in a line change 8:35 into the second, and Williams chased Rinne with a power-play goal at 10:11.

Forsberg scored the next two goals. He had a short-handed tally in the second and then scored again 13:33 into the third to cut Carolina's lead to 5-3.

**NOTES:** It was Aho's second career hat trick. ... Williams, in his 18th NHL season, matched his career-best scoring streak with a goal in

five straight games. ... Left wing Phillip Di Giuseppe played 21 games with Carolina this season. He was claimed on waivers by the Predators on Jan. 1 and played his third game with Nashville on Sunday. ... The Hurricanes improved to 7-0-2 in their black alternate jerseys this season. □



# Hirscher wins slalom for WCup record 9th win at same venue

**ADELBODEN, Switzerland (AP)** — Once more in his stellar career, Marcel Hirscher was racing against Alpine skiing's history book on Sunday.

The Austrian great almost inevitably won a World Cup slalom, his ninth victory at Adelboden, to set a men's record on the 52-year circuit for most wins by one skier at a single venue. "It is really a special place," said Hirscher, who noted he got his first World Cup top-10 finish at Adelboden as a teenager in the January 2008 slalom.

The Chuenisbaergli slope, a snow-covered cow pasture, was an original World Cup venue in January 1967 and its race winners' roll reads like a list of Alpine ski greats.

Hirscher's latest Adelboden win was earned with a second-run charge to victory for the second straight day, and through steadily falling wet snow that affected visibility.

Third-fastest in the morning, Hirscher was quickest in the afternoon to finish 0.50 seconds ahead of Clement Noel. The 21-year-old



Austria's Marcel Hirscher competes during a ski World Cup men's Giant Slalom in Adelboden, Switzerland, Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019.

Associated Press

Frenchman got his first career podium finish.

Henrik Kristoffersen trailed Hirscher by 0.71 in third, one day after letting a first-run lead slip when runner-up to Hirscher in the classic giant slalom.

"When Marcel is at the level that he is in at the moment, I couldn't beat him with

those mistakes," Kristoffersen said.

Hirscher, if he stays free of injury, is making a procession of his pursuit of a record-extending eighth straight overall World Cup title, just as two-time defending champion Mikaela Shiffrin is dominating the women's title race.

He swept the weekend races at Adelboden for the third time in his career, and in back-to-back years.

Hirscher's ninth career win at the storied Swiss hill lifted him over two racers who have won eight times at one venue: Ingemar Stenmark at Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, in the 1970s and

'80s and Aksel Lund Svindal in Lake Louise, Canada, since 2005. Hirscher has also won eight times at Alta Badia, Italy.

Hirscher also matched Stenmark's record of five career slalom wins at two different venues. Alberto Tomba got five wins at a single venue. With 67 career World Cup wins — including nine already this season — the 29-year-old Hirscher is maintaining a pace to threaten Stenmark's all-time mark of 86 wins. Hirscher earned 100 World Cup points and is 405 clear of Kristoffersen in the overall standings. A five-time winner of the slalom discipline title, Hirscher is now 158 points clear of Daniel Yule of Switzerland, who placed eighth Sunday. Switzerland's Tanguy Nef placed 25th, one day before returning to the United States to attend classes at Dartmouth College. The 22-year-old Nef was the NCAA champion in slalom last season. For the second straight slalom, Hirscher's Austrian teammate Marco Schwarz wasted his first-run lead and was disqualified for straddling a gate. □

In November, he ended a four-year drought by winning the Mayakoba Classic in Mexico on another course that requires keeping the ball in play off the tee for good chances to score.

There's another similarity in the two events.

Kuchar had a 54-hole score of 193 in Mexico, the lowest of his career. He went one lower at the Sony Open at 18-under 192. Kuchar has made only one bogey through 54 holes at Waialae, and he only came seriously close to one bogey until saving par from a bunker on the par-3 17th.

"Good, steady golf," Kuchar said. "It felt easy out there. I didn't find myself in any trouble."

Putnam was two shots behind after a 67.

Keith Mitchell had a 63 to pull within four shots, along with Chez Reavie, who fell back with three straight bogeys early on the back nine. Those were the only



Matt Kuchar hits from the first tee during the final round of the Sony Open PGA Tour golf event, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, at Waialae Country Club in Honolulu.

Associated Press

players within five shots of the lead, and all of them are chasing Kuchar.

"I anticipate needing another good score tomorrow," Kuchar said. "I know I can't coast."

Kuchar is 2-2 when he has the 54-hole lead going into the final round.

The only other time Kuchar won twice in the same season was in 2013, when he won the Match Play

Championship in Arizona in February and the Memorial in early June. That put him at No. 4 in the world, the highest he has been in his career.

Kuchar was sliding his way out of the top 50 toward the end of last year, when he failed to make a Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup team for the first time since 2009. But he had a good session with his swing coach in Dallas,

and it paid off two weeks later on the Gulf side of the Mexican coast.

This was more of the same. Putnam, who won for the first time last year in the Barracuda Championship held opposite a World Golf Championship, did his best to stay in reach. They were tied through seven holes until Putnam made bogey on No. 8 and failed to birdie the par-5 ninth, the easiest hole at Waialae. Putnam missed an 8-foot birdie attempt on No. 18.

"Didn't feel as easy as the first two days," Putnam said. "Still played a good round. Still got a chance."

Bryson DeChambeau had a 63 and led a large pack at 11-under 199, seven shots out of the lead for a slim chance at winning unless the leaders come back to the field. Also tied for fifth were Charles Howell III and 54-year-old Davis Love III, who had one of his better putting rounds.

Kuchar was at his best on a

number of putts from the 50-foot range. He didn't make any, but he didn't leave himself any work for par. That added to the stress-free feeling of a round, and the overall control he feels in his game.

"Kuch is playing well, so I feel like I've got to get out there and make some birdies if it's not too windy," Putnam said. "If it's like today, it's going to be scorable. I have to stay aggressive."

**DIVOTS:** Gary Woodland, who didn't shoot worse than 68 last week and still had to settle for runner-up at Kapalua, was among 10 players who missed the 54-hole cut because more than 78 players made it to the weekend. He shot 76. Also missing the 54-hole cut was Steve Stricker, who will stay in Hawaii an extra week for the opening event of the PGA Tour Champions season. ... Love is not playing next week on the Big Island because he is playing the Singapore Open. □

# Djokovic's start may follow Murray's finale at Aussie Open

By JOHN PYE

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Novak Djokovic knows there's a chance he may not have played his opening match at the Australian Open before Andy Murray is out of the tournament. Perhaps even finished on the tour.

Their careers have long been intertwined. They're both 31 and have birthdays a week apart in May, and they've played each other 36 times at the elite level.

Djokovic leads those 25-11, including a 4-0 record in finals at the Australian Open, where Murray has been a five-time finalist but never won the title.

They had a practice match together in Melbourne Park on the eve of Murray's teary news conference Friday, where he revealed the pain from his surgically-repaired right hip was so bad that he'd decided to retire after attempting one more run at Wimbledon — if he can make it that far.

Murray was noticeably limping between points and only won two games in almost two full sets, but Djokovic on Sunday denied he'd taken it any easier on

his long-time friend. It's not the way they operate.

"I wasn't, no. To be honest, I wasn't," top-ranked Djokovic said. "But I did see, it was very obvious for everyone, you didn't need to be on court to notice that he's struggling."

"We've seen so many years of Andy Murray being one of the fittest guys on the tour, running around the court, getting always an extra ball back. I think to that extent, we are kind of similar."

Djokovic has six Australian Open titles, a record he shared with two-time defending champion Roger Federer and Roy Emerson.

Djokovic and Federer are on opposite sides of the draw, and can only meet in the final. Murray is in Federer's half, but even he concedes he's unlikely to get past No. 22-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut on Monday night.

Djokovic isn't in action until Day 2, when he opens against U.S. qualifier Mitchell Krueger. As winner of the last two majors, he's a strong contender to win in Melbourne Park again and become the first man with



Serbia's Novak Djokovic rests on the net during a practice session at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

three streaks of three or more consecutive Grand Slam championships.

His 14 majors so far place him third behind 37-year-old Federer (20) and 32-year-old Rafael Nadal (17), but he's likely got more years to play on the circuit. Murray's career is expected to be finished in a matter of months. He didn't tally

as many titles as the other members of the Big Four, but he broke decades-long droughts for British men in majors and at Wimbledon, and became the first player to win consecutive singles gold medals at the Olympics.

"Our trajectory to the professional tennis world was pretty much simi-

lar," Djokovic said. "We've grown together playing junior events. We played lots of epic matches in the professional circuit (and) our games are quite alike."

"Obviously to see him struggle so much and go through so much pain, it's very sad and it hurts me as his longtime friend, colleague, rival." □

## Loeb wins another Dakar stage but Al-Attiyah still leads

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Sebastien Loeb capitalized on an error by Dakar Rally leader Nasser Al-Attiyah to win a second straight stage and rise to second overall on Sunday.

Al-Attiyah led the sixth stage from Arequipa to San Juan de Marcona until about 15 kilometers from the finish when he drove into the wrong valley looking for a waypoint. Loeb, two minutes behind the Qatari, moved two minutes ahead and held on to win his third stage of this Dakar.

He passed the spot where he crashed out of the race last year, when he was lying second overall.

"It was a tricky stage," Loeb said. "We dodged the bullet."

Al-Attiyah was second, 2:17 behind, but remained

the leader with a nearly 38-minute margin.

"It's not really that comfortable, but it's good to have this very difficult stage behind us," Al-Attiyah said.

Loeb, the nine-time world rally champion trying to win the Dakar at his fourth attempt, leapt over record seven-time champion Stephane Peterhansel.

Peterhansel, who started the second half of the rally second overall at 24 minutes behind Al-Attiyah, went to help Nani Roma early but got stuck in a sand basin and lost 20 minutes. With brilliant driving he limited the damage to 12 minutes until he ran in to trouble near the finish, and ended up nearly 19 minutes behind the stage winner. He's 41 minutes behind overall.

"Victory's slipping away af-

ter too many mistakes," Peterhansel said.

Roma, the 2014 champion, was 45 minutes down in fourth. Change was expected in the motorbike race, where the top seven riders were within nine minutes of each other.

Race leader Ricky Brabec and Sam Sunderland were separated by only a minute but weren't contenders on the sandy stage.

Sunderland, as the stage five winner, opened the way and struggled. He was nine minutes off the pace after the first section, and 23 minutes by the end. From a minute behind at the start of the day, he was 21 back at the end.

Brabec was up front for the first half of the stage but dropped to sixth. He fell to second overall, 4:38 behind stage winner and new



Driver Sebastien Loeb, of France, and co-driver Daniel Elena, of Monaco, race their Peugeot during the stage six of the Dakar Rally between Arequipa and San Juan de Marcona, Peru, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

leader Pablo Quintanilla. Quintanilla dueled with Kevin Benavides over the second half of the stage, and edged it by less than two minutes.

After Quintanilla and Brabec, Toby Price was five minutes behind overall

in third, and Benavides was eight minutes back in fourth. Only Price among the top four has won the Dakar, in 2016.

Defending champion Matthias Walkner fell nearly 11 minutes back.

The race ends on Thursday.

# Technology brings images of Holocaust survivors to life

**DALLAS (AP)** — Max Glauben was 17 and had already lost his mother, father and brother at the hands of the Nazis when U.S. troops rescued him while he was on a death march from one German concentration camp to another.

The recollections of the Dallas resident who as a Jew in Poland survived the Warsaw Ghetto and Nazi concentration camps are now being preserved in a way that will allow generations to come to ask his image questions. Glauben, who turns 91 on Monday, is the latest Holocaust survivor recorded in such a way by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation. The Los Angeles-based foundation has recorded 18 interactive testimonies with Holocaust survivors over the last several years, and executive director Stephen Smith says they're in a "race against time" as they work to add more, seeking both a diversity in experiences and testimonies in a variety of languages.

"I thought that my knowl-



This August 2018 photo shows Holocaust survivor Max Glauben sitting in an interactive green screen room while filming a piece for the Dallas Holocaust Museum in Dallas.

Associated Press

edge could cure the hatred and the bigotry and the killings in this world if somebody can listen to my story, my testimony, and be educated even after I'm gone," Glauben said.

Smith says that while the foundation founded in 1994 by film director Steven Spielberg has about 55,000 audiovisual testimonies

about genocides in dozens of languages — the majority from the Holocaust — the interactive technology stands out for allowing museumgoers to have a dialogue with survivors.

"It's your questions that are being answered," Smith said, adding that the replies, especially on weighty issues like forgiveness can

be especially poignant. He says, "You actually see sometimes them struggling to know what to answer."

So far, the foundation has Holocaust survivors speaking in English, Hebrew and Spanish, and the group hopes to get people speaking in even more languages.

"It's so powerful when it's in

your mother tongue and you're looking the person in the eye and you are hearing nuanced language coming back that's your own language," Smith said. For more than a year now, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center has featured the survivors' images in a special theater. Museum CEO Susan Abrams says that when visitors interact with the images, the impact is often obvious: "People get teary; people laugh."

"Our audience comes to feel that they know these survivors somewhat intimately because they're having small group conversation, and in that moment, pretty much everything else fades away," Abrams said.

The Illinois museum is one of four currently featuring the images. Other museums are in Houston, Indiana and New York. The Holocaust museum in Dallas will start showing them starting in September, after it opens in a new location and with a new name — the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. □



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying 10 Iridium Communications satellites blasts off through clouds over Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc, Calif., Friday morning, Jan. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By **JOHN ANTCHAK**  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A SpaceX rocket delivered 10 satellites to low-Earth orbit on Friday, completing a two-year campaign by Iridium Communications Inc. to replace its original fleet with a new generation of

mobile communication technology and added global aircraft tracking capability.

The Falcon 9 rocket blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 7:31 a.m. and arced over the Pacific west of Los Angeles. The previously used first stage

## SpaceX launches 10 more Iridium Communications satellites

was recovered again with a bullseye landing on a "droneship" in the ocean while the upper stage continued on to orbit.

The eighth and final launch of the \$3 billion Iridium NEXT project completed delivery of 75 new satellites to orbit for the McLean, Virginia, company. Sixty-six will be operational and nine will serve as in-orbit spares. Six other satellites remain on the ground as spares.

All 10 newly launched satellites communicated with Iridium's network operations center and were being readied for testing, the company said.

Iridium has been moving its new satellites into positions that were held by the old ones, which are lowered until they burn up in the atmosphere. So far, 60 new

satellites are in operation. The first Iridium satellites were launched in the 1990s to offer voice, data, fax and paging services to customers with Iridium handheld telephones and pagers.

Among new capabilities enabled by the fleet upgrade is Iridium Certus, described as a broadband solution for purposes ranging from life-safety services to command-and-control of unmanned aircraft systems and tracking.

The Iridium NEXT satellites also carry a system by Aireon LLC for space-based air traffic surveillance over 100 percent of the globe.

The Aireon system collects what is known as Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast data automatically and in real time, even

from remote areas over the world's oceans.

"Today we passed a major milestone on our journey to revolutionize air traffic surveillance and are just weeks away from a fully operational system," Don Thoma, CEO of Aireon, said in a statement. "Now that the launches are complete, final integration and testing of the recently launched payloads can commence, after which the world's first, real-time, truly global view of air traffic will be a reality." Aireon said it is already processing more than 13 billion ADS-B messages per month.

Another difference with the new satellites is of note to skywatchers: no "Iridium flares." The new satellites do not reflect sunlight the way the old ones did. □

# How's the US economy doing? Shutdown makes it harder to say

**By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The partial shutdown of the U.S. government has begun to make it harder to assess the health of the economy by delaying or distorting key reports on growth, spending and hiring.

Government data on home construction and retail sales, for example, won't be released next week because staffers who compile those reports have been furloughed. The retail sales report provides a snapshot of consumer spending, which fuels more than two-thirds of the economy. With Macy's and Kohl's having said Thursday that their holiday sales were weaker than expected, a broader gauge of retail spending would have provided important clarity.

In addition, the next report on the economy's overall growth, set for Jan. 30, won't be released if the shutdown remains in effect. Even if the government has fully reopened by then, federal workers won't likely have had enough time to produce the scheduled report on the nation's gross domestic product.

Not all agencies are closed. Congress approved funding last year for the Labor Department, so the government's next monthly jobs report will be released as scheduled on Feb. 1. But it's unclear how long the department will be able to issue jobs reports — the most closely watched barometer of the economy — after that.

Though the economy remains healthy in most respects, there are rising concerns that growth could slow or even stall in coming months. The trade war between the United States and China, which has helped depress global growth, is likely slowing business investment. The



Government workers, American Federation of Government Employees union members and members of supporting local unions, pose for a group photo during the rally to highlight the effect the federal shutdown, Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

stimulus from the Trump administration's tax cuts is expected to fade.

And borrowing costs have risen since the Federal Reserve raised short-term interest rates four times last year. Before rebounding this week, stock markets had plummeted roughly 16 percent from their peak Oct. 2.

Many economists increasingly see the shutdown, should it persist, as a drag on the economy. Michael Feroli of J.P. Morgan has downgraded his forecast for growth in the first three months of 2019 because of the shutdown. He now expects the economy to grow at a 2 percent annual rate, down from his previous estimate of 2.25 percent.

The shutdown is costing the economy about \$1.2 billion a week, according to Standard & Poor's. Some of that loss will be regained after federal workers eventually receive back pay for the time they missed. But many government contractors won't be made whole. And lost business — such as scheduled hotel stays from

trips to national parks that won't be taken — may not be made up.

Fed officials are now stressing their flexibility on rate hikes, emphasizing that they will be patient and their policy "data dependent." By this, the Fed means that the government's latest readings on hiring, inflation and growth will factor heavily in its rate decisions. Yet much of that data will now be unavailable — to the Fed or anyone else.

"For us, one of the biggest effects of the shutdown has been around data," Raphael Bostic, president of the Fed's Atlanta regional bank, said Wednesday. "We're worrying about that."

Even some reports that are released on schedule are likely to be distorted by the shutdown. For example, the January jobs report may show an artificially high unemployment rate and low employment figure. That's because up to 380,000 federal employees who aren't working or being paid during the shutdown — but

who will return to work afterward — could be counted as unemployed for January.

If so, that would raise the unemployment rate by 0.2 percentage point, estimated Ben Herzon, an economist at Macroeconomic Advisers, a forecasting firm. And the monthly job count could decline by 380,000 if the shutdown continues through the end of January, Herzon said. That could push the monthly job figure into negative territory.

If all the federal workers eventually receive back pay, as occurred after previous shutdowns, then the January jobs report would later be revised to restore those 380,000 jobs, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Future jobs reports could be jeopardized, too, if the government remains shut down. The Census Bureau conducts the monthly surveys that the BLS uses to calculate the unemployment rate. Census is part of the Commerce Department, which remains closed dur-

ing the shutdown.

The BLS wouldn't say whether data collection will continue beyond January if the shutdown continues.

A business journalists' organization on Friday urged "all parties" to end the shutdown, saying it is "deeply troubled" by delays in release of the economic reports.

"Timely access to data about the United States economy is critical to decision-making by our nation's businesses and consumers," the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing said in a statement. "The continued partial shutdown is disrupting the vital flow of information."

Some economic reports have already been missed. They include a monthly report on factory orders that was scheduled for Monday. That report typically provides insights into how much U.S. companies are spending on large equipment.

Inflation data will also be affected: The consumer price index was released Friday morning as scheduled, because it was prepared by the Labor Department. But the Fed's preferred inflation gauge is published by Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, which is closed.

And because the Agriculture Department is closed, future reports on wholesale prices and import prices won't include farm-related data, the BLS said Thursday. A report on the number of people seeking unemployment benefits, considered a nearly real-time reflection of layoffs, is still being published. But it could be distorted by the shutdown: Nearly 5,000 federal employees sought benefits two weeks ago, according to the latest data available, roughly five times the usual figure. □

## Average US price of gas drops 12 cents per gallon to \$2.31

**Associated Press**  
**CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)** — The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline has dropped 12 cents a gal-

lon (3.8 liters) over the past three weeks to \$2.31. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey says Sunday that falling

crude oil costs are the main reason for the decrease at the pump.

The average gas price has dropped 66 cents over the

past 3 ½ months.

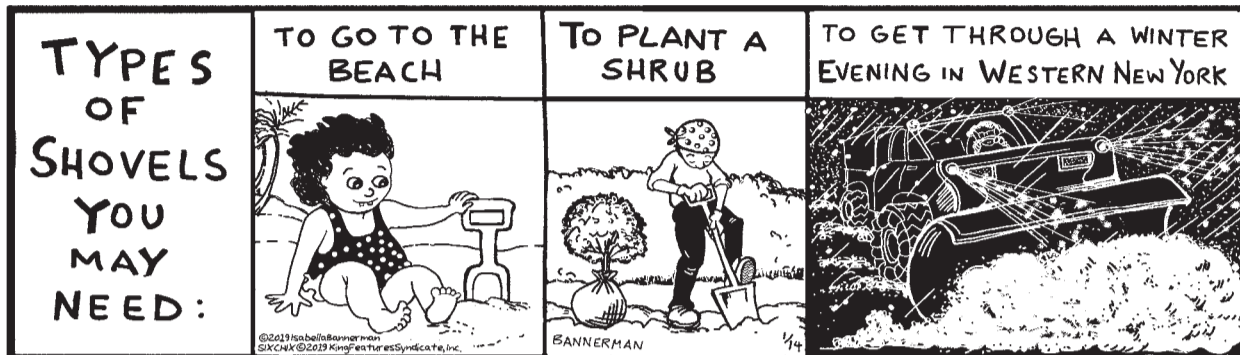
The highest average price in the nation is \$3.46 a gallon in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The lowest average is \$1.80 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The average price of diesel fell 9 cents over the past three weeks, to \$3.03. □

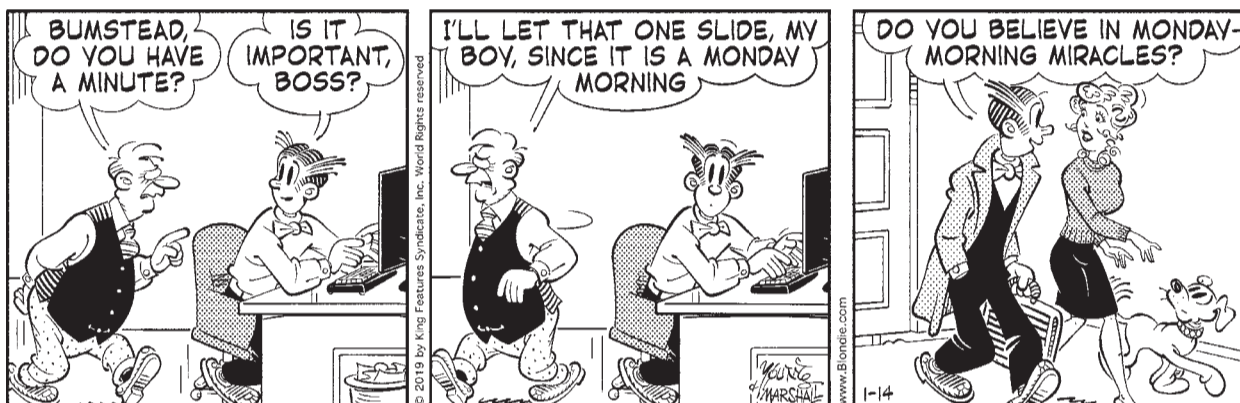
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1			8		5			2
	5			9			8	
		9	4			7		
9			7		4	3		8
	4			2			9	
3		7	9		1			4
		5			7	8		
	7			1			3	
6			3		8			5

Difficulty Level ★

1/14

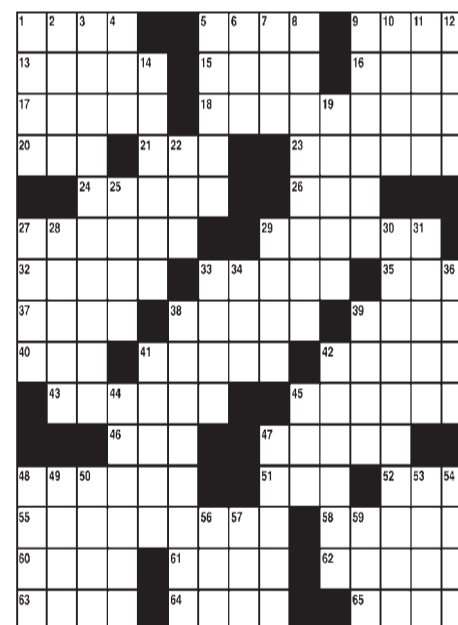
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

8	4	3	6	1	5	7	2	9
9	7	2	3	4	8	5	1	6
1	5	6	2	9	7	4	8	3
3	1	7	9	8	6	2	5	4
6	2	4	7	5	1	3	9	8
5	8	9	4	2	3	1	6	7
4	6	1	5	7	9	8	3	2
2	3	8	1	6	4	9	7	5
7	9	5	8	3	2	6	4	1

ACROSS

- 1 Highly self-satisfied  
5 Slightly open  
9 "Sesame Street" Muppet  
13 Solitary  
15 "I Got You \_\_", Sonny & Cher hit  
16 Stitched joining  
17 Granny Smith, for one  
18 Musical group  
20 Singer Tillis  
21 Can cover  
23 Boo-boo remover  
24 Make joyful  
26 Not \_\_ longer; no more  
27 Characteristics  
29 Emergency  
32 Grocery store walkway  
33 Razz  
35 Capture  
37 "Do as \_\_, not as I do"  
38 Stop  
39 \_\_carotene; antioxidant in carrots  
40 Goodman or Cariou  
41 Wooden box  
42 Filled with rage  
43 Gazes  
45 Traditional antiseptic  
46 \_\_ culpa  
47 Place for a watch  
48 Clap cuffs on  
51 Traitor  
52 "Much \_\_ About Nothing"  
55 Capital of Laos  
58 Diminished  
60 Like cinnamon rolls, usually  
61 Middle East nation  
62 Irritated  
63 Root beer brand  
64 \_\_ in the bud; squelches early  
65 Pieces of furniture



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/14/19

DOWN

- 1 Grand \_\_; 4-run homer  
2 Sulk  
3 Icky  
4 \_\_ pen; smooth-writing Bic  
5 Dwelling  
6 Joit  
7 Major TV network  
8 Practice  
9 Prose writings  
10 "Why don't we!"  
11 Female animal  
12 Actor Sharif  
14 Tell, as a story  
19 Kovacs or Els  
22 " \_\_ the Hard Knock Life"; song from "Annie"  
25 Easter flower  
27 Follow  
28 Ascends  
29 In \_\_; lest  
30 Sure to happen  
31 Wedding dress fabric  
33 Afternoon socials  
34 Dine  
36 Commanded

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	M	S	A	L	T	E	R	O	P	A	L
S	P	A	T									T
V	E	R										H
P	S	I										C
												J
M	A	N	I	L	A							W
A	G	E	N	T								S
P	A	T	E									B
S	I	T										M
												P
T	R	O	V	E								H
R	E	G	I	S	T	R	A	R	S			E
O	A	R	S									K
T	R	E										I

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57 Siesta  
59 Baby's accessory



This Sept. 2015 photo provided by NOAA Fisheries shows an adult female orca, identified as J-16, as she's about to surface with her youngest calf, born earlier in the year 2015, near the San Juan Islands in Washington state's Puget Sound.

Associated Press

## Researcher: Calf born to endangered Pacific Northwest orcas

SEATTLE (AP) — Researchers say there's a new calf among the population of critically endangered killer whales that live in the waters between Washington state and Canada.

Ken Balcomb, founding director of the Center for Whale Research, told The Seattle Times that staff first saw the calf Friday at the eastern end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The youngster looks healthy, but survival rates for baby orcas are only about 50 percent, he said. The whales have been starving amid a dearth of salmon. Vessel noise and pollution have complicated their plight. No calf born in the last three years

has survived. One whale drew international attention when she carried her dead calf on her head for 17 days last summer.

Two other orcas are known to be sick, and researchers fear they could die within months.

The southern resident population of orcas differ from some of the other orca populations in eating primarily salmon, rather than seals or other marine mammals.

They were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 2005. The following year, the fisheries service designated the inland waters of Washington state as critical habitat. □

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Aruba Airlines 583 8300

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January 15

Marella Discovery

Monarch

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Alcoholics Anonymous

Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous

Tel. 583 8989

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## General Info

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# DNA of wolf declared extinct in wild lives on in Texas pack



In this June 13, 2017, file photo, the parents of this 7-week old red wolf pup keep an eye on their offspring at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press

**DALLAS (AP)** — Researchers say a pack of wild canines found frolicking near the beaches of the Texas Gulf Coast carry a substantial amount of red wolf genes, a surprising discovery because the animal was declared extinct in the wild nearly 40 years ago. The finding has led wildlife biologists and others to develop a new understanding that the red wolf DNA is remarkably resilient after decades of human hunting, loss of habitat and other factors had led the animal to near decimation. "Overall, it's incredibly rare to rediscover animals in a region where they were thought to be extinct and

it's even more exciting to show that a piece of an endangered genome has been preserved in the wild," said Elizabeth Heppenheimer, a Princeton University biologist involved in the research on the pack found on Galveston Island in Texas. The work of the Princeton team was published in the scientific journal *Genes*. The genetic analysis found that the Galveston canines appear to be a hybrid of red wolf and coyote, but Heppenheimer cautions that without additional testing, it's difficult to label the animal. Ron Sutherland, a North Carolina-based conserva-

tion scientist with the Wildlands Network, said it's exciting to have found "this unique and fascinating medium-sized wolf." The survival of the red wolf genes "without much help from us for the last 40 years is wonderful news," said Sutherland, who was not involved in the Princeton study. The discovery coincides with similar DNA findings in wild canines in southwestern Louisiana and bolsters the hopes of conservationists dismayed by the dwindling number of red wolves in North Carolina that comprised the only known pack in the wild. The red wolf, which tops out at about 80 pounds (49 kilograms), was once common across a vast region extending from Texas to the south, into the Southeast and up into the Northeast. It was federally classified as endangered in 1967 and declared extinct in the wild in 1980. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the 1970s captured a remnant population in Texas and Louisi-

ana that eventually led to a successful captive breeding program. Those canines in 1986 became part of the experimental wild population in North Carolina. That group has been declining since peaking at an estimated 120 to 130 wolves in 2006. A federal report in April said only about 40 remained. An additional 200 red wolves live in zoos and wildlife facilities as part of captive breeding programs. A federal judge in November sided with environmental groups that argued in a lawsuit that efforts by federal authorities to shrink the territory of the wild group in North Carolina were a violation of law. The judge ruled U.S. Fish and Wildlife also violated the Endangered Species Act by authorizing private landowners to kill the canine predators even if they weren't threatening humans, livestock or pets. The debate over red wolf protections could take on new dimensions with the discovery on Galveston.

Sutherland said the Galveston canines have effectively quashed a decades-old impression that red wolves were a feckless predator overwhelmed by the numerical superiority of coyotes. He adds that the Galveston group has DNA that can't be found in the animal's captive population.

"From a practical conservation biology standpoint, these animals have special DNA and they deserve to be protected," he said, explaining that conservation easements that restrict development along parts of the Gulf Coast are an essential first step.

A spokesman for U.S. Fish and Wildlife said the agency is unable to comment during the partial government shutdown. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said in a statement that the Galveston discovery is "interesting," but "we do not anticipate any regulatory changes or implications in Texas at this time."

Kim Wheeler, executive director of the North Carolina-based Red Wolf Coalition, cautioned that further study of the Galveston pack is needed.

"We can get excited, but in my mind, we really need to let science do its due diligence to determine what this animal is," she said, noting that red wolves can evoke strong feelings in people with livestock or who have other concerns with their predatory nature. Conservationists, meanwhile, say policymakers need to have a greater appreciation for hybrid animals. When the Endangered Species Act was implemented in the 1970s, conventional wisdom was that hybridization between species — such as the wolf and coyote — was rare and to be avoided. But experts say the thinking on that has changed.

"Now we know hybridization is relatively common in natural systems and does not always have negative consequences, but the policy hasn't quite caught up with this notion," Heppenheimer said. □



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# Beautiful! Carole King shows up as herself in Broadway bio

By BROOKE LEFFERTS

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Anything can happen in live theater, and audience members seeing "Beautiful," the life story of Carole King, got a surprise when King appeared in the role of herself to celebrate the show's fifth anniversary on Broadway. The packed house at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre erupted into thunderous cheers and applause as King appeared Saturday night, sitting at a baby grand piano and showing all the love in her heart as she sang "Beautiful," the final song.

"It's kind of miraculous that this show has lasted for five years because not many do. And it's a testament to, I think, people say the music ... but the book is so good and the direction and the lighting and the sets. It's really a well put together production," King said in an interview with The Associated Press after the show. She has sung onstage during curtain calls during the show's long run but has never appeared in the show itself.

In the show's final scene — set during her famous 1971 Carnegie Hall concert — the 76-year-old King played a much younger version of herself as she took over for Cholina Kennedy, who recently returned to the Broadway production of "Beautiful" after playing the King role in the North American tour.

King and the cast then performed the show's encore number, "I Feel the Earth Move," at the curtain call as the audience danced and clapped along. The singer-songwriter held hands with Kennedy as the two took several bows and accepted flowers from the cast.

"Everyone connected with this show will agree that the people we have to thank the most are you, the audiences; please give yourselves a hand," King told the audience, a sea of cell-phones snapping pictures. "It's thanks to you, you who have come once ... twice, three times," she said. "I

hear from people who've brought friends, family and shared the joy and shared the love, and it's amazing. "So if you keep doing that, you never know when I might show up again," she joked.

Among the audience members was Chuck Schumer, the U.S. senator from New York, who waved to the crowd and gestured thumbs up as he exited the theater. "CBS This Morning" anchor Gayle King was also at the show and said it was her fourth time seeing it. "I love it. I love her," she said. "I still have my 'Tapestry' album."

"Beautiful" is based on King's life from when she was a teenage songwriter in New York, to her time as wife, mother and author of scores of recognizable songs. The show features a collection of famous pop music, written by King and her ex-husband Gerry Goffin, as well as Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, including the classics "You've Got a Friend," "One Fine Day," "Up on the Roof," "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" and "Natural Woman."

King called seeing herself played as a character onstage "surreal" but said she is pleased the show has had such longevity.

"Beautiful" opened on Broadway on Jan. 13, 2014, and won the 2014 Tony Award for best actress in a musical for Jessie Mueller; the 2015 Grammy Award for best musical theater album; and two 2015 Olivier Awards, Britain's version of the Tonys. Productions have played in London, Japan and Australia and toured the United Kingdom. The North American tour is celebrating its third anniversary of sold-out runs and is currently playing at Philadelphia's Academy of Music.

When producers came to her to suggest she appear in the last scene to mark the show's anniversary, King said, she did not hesitate.

"I totally envisioned that moment, and it was a thousand times more than I had imagined," King told the AP. □



In this Saturday, Jan. 12, 2019, photo Carole King, third from right, poses for photos with the cast of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre after a performance in New York.

Associated Press

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# Kevin Hart's 'The Upside' unseats 'Aquaman' in \$19.6M debut

By JAKE COYLE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kevin Hart isn't hosting the Oscars, but he's got a number one movie.

"The Upside," starring Hart and Bryan Cranston, surpassed expectations to open with \$19.6 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. The strong performance of "The Upside" pushed "Aquaman" to second after the aquatic superhero's three-week reign atop the North American box office. Warner Bros.' "Aquaman" still passed \$1 billion worldwide over the weekend, becoming the first DC Comics release to reach that mark since 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises."

"The Upside" opened on the heels of several weeks of Oscar drama surrounding Hart. The comedian last month withdrew from hosting the Academy Awards, just days after being named emcee, when he initially refused to apologize for years-old homophobic tweets.

On the publicity trail for "The Upside," Hart repeat-



This image released by STXfilms shows Bryan Cranston, from left, Jahi Di'Allo Winston, and Kevin Hart in a scene from "The Upside."

Associated Press

edly dismissed the Oscar controversy, saying he was "over it," while flirting with the possibility of returning as Oscar host — something for which talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres, in particular, advocated.

Whether all that attention helped raise the profile of

"The Upside," a remake of the 2012 French comedy "The Intouchables," was difficult to extrapolate, though it surely didn't hurt. Ticket sales were almost twice industry forecasts. The film received poor reviews (40 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and was slammed by some critics for trading on the kind of gay

panic humor that Hart was forced to apologize for.

Neil Burger's film, which cost about \$35 million to make, stars Hart as an ex-con who becomes a caretaker for a physically disabled author (Cranston). It was originally to be distributed by the Weinstein Co. Harvey Weinstein premiered the film at the 2017 Toronto In-

ternational Film Festival just weeks before the many allegations of sexual harassment surfaced against the movie mogul.

STX Entertainment picked up the movie, which on Sunday handed the five-year-old start-up studio its first no. 1 release at the box office. Launched in 2014 with a mission to make the kind of mid-budgeted, star-driven films the studios have increasingly abandoned, STX has had some successes ("Bad Moms," "The Foreigner," the critically acclaimed "The Edge of Seventeen") but has often struggled to find breakout hits. Last year's much derided "The Happytime Murders," with Melissa McCarthy, was one of the 2017's most glaring flops.

STX's Motion Picture Group Chairman Adam Fogelson pointed to strong audience reaction (an A CinemaScore) and downplayed any effect of the Oscar chatter on "The Upside," noting that Hart "is in the culture constantly for tons of stuff."

Fogelson called the no. 1 result a symbol of larger success for STX's business model. □

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FRI-SAT 4:00 | 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:45  
CXC SAT-SUN 1:00  
MON-SUN 4:30 | 9:15  
SPANISH SAT-SUN 1:45 (PG-13)

BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD | ASHLEY JUDD  
**A DOG'S WAY HOME**  
MON-FRI 4:50 | 7:00  
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:00 (PG)

JANDINO ASPORAAT | JULIANA DE VRIES  
**BON BINI HOLLAND 2**  
DUTCH MON-FRI 4:05  
SAT-SUN 2:00 | 4:05  
CXC MON-THU 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30  
FRI 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35  
SAT 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 | 11:35  
SUN 1:10 | 3:15 | 5:20 | 7:25 | 9:30 (PG-13)

HAILEE STEINFELD | DYLAN O'BRIEN  
**BUMBLEBEE**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-FRI 4:45  
SAT-SUN 2:30 | 4:45  
CXC MON-FRI 6:45  
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 4:45 (PG-13)

JASON MOMOA | AMBER HEARD  
**AQUAMAN**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THU & SUN 7:50  
FRI-SAT 7:50 | 10:45  
CXC MON-FRI 6:10 | 9:05  
SAT-SUN 3:15 | 6:10 | 9:05 (PG-13)

EMILY BLUNT | LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA  
**MARY POPPINS RETURNS**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-FRI 5:05  
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 5:05 (PG)

RAMI MALEK | LUCY BOYNTON  
**BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-SUN 6:10 | 9:00 (PG-13)

DEBORAH ANN WOLL | TAYLOR RUSSELL  
**ESCAPE ROOM**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THU & SUN 7:10 | 9:25  
FRI-SAT 7:10 | 9:25 | 11:40 (PG-13)

CLINT EASTWOOD | BRADLEY COOPER  
**THE MULE**  
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## Gervais crafts intelligent and thoughtful thriller



This book cover image released by Thomas and Mercer shows "Hunt Them Down," a thriller by Simon Gervais.

Associated Press

By JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"Hunt Them Down" (Thomas and Mercer), by Simon Gervais

Pierce Hunt has returned

from a six-month forced leave after a reporter is injured during a bust even though it's not Hunt's fault.

On his first day back, he's assigned to assist the transfer of a high-profile drug cartel target named Vicente Garcia. It's personal for Hunt since he's responsible for bringing Garcia to justice at the cost of his marriage. He also fell in love with Garcia's daughter. When the convoy is ambushed, Hunt barely survives. Then he learns that the people responsible are not only attempting to take over the lucrative drug business, they have also kidnapped Garcia's granddaughter and a friend of hers who happens to be Hunt's daughter.

The new head of the cartel

could not be more ruthless, and if it means killing the girls to have her demands met, so be it. Hunt has to not only work with Garcia's daughter, the woman he tried to forget and who loathes him after his betrayal, he also has to work against the very principles he swore to uphold.

In "Hunt Them Down," Gervais has crafted an intelligent and thoughtful thriller that mixes family dynamics with explosive action. Heroes who fight impossible odds while being likable characters are always welcome in the world of genre fiction. The possibilities are endless in this new series, and this will easily find an enthusiastic audience craving Hunt's next adventures. □

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## NBC News, Megyn Kelly reach separation agreement

By DAVID BAUDER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — NBC News announced its professional divorce agreement with Megyn Kelly late Friday, ending an association with the former Fox News Channel star whose attempt to become a network morning television star as part of the "Today" show floundered.

Terms were not disclosed. Kelly was in the second of a three-year contract that reportedly paid her more than \$20 million a year.

She's been off the air since October after creating a furor by suggesting that it was OK for white people to wear blackface on Halloween, and exit negotiations had dragged for two months over the holidays. Even before the controversial commentary, her future was considered limited at NBC News.

"The parties have resolved their differences, and Megyn Kelly is no longer



In this April 12, 2018 file photo, television journalist Megyn Kelly attends The Hollywood Reporter's annual 35 Most Powerful People in Media event at The Pool in New York.

Associated Press

an employee of NBC," the network said in a statement Friday night.

NBC says she'll be replaced in the third hour of the "Today" show by anchors Craig Melvin, Al Roker, Dylan Dreyer and Sheinelle

Jones.

Her tenure was also a failure for NBC News Chairman Andrew Lack, who lured her from Fox News Channel with the type of big-money contract that was once standard in tele-

vision news but now is less so with financial constrictions and less viewership. In a sense, Kelly was caught in a no-woman's land: some at NBC were suspicious of her because of the Fox News background, while her former audience at Fox resented her for tough questioning of Donald Trump on the presidential campaign trail.

While at Fox, her accusations of unwanted sexual advances by the network's late chief executive, Roger Ailes, helped lead to his firing.

She made news at NBC when interviewing women who accused Trump of inappropriate behavior and spoke with accusers of Harvey Weinstein, Bill O'Reilly, Roy Moore and others, as well as women who say they were harassed on Capitol Hill. The episode with Trump accusers had more than 2.9 million viewers, one of her biggest au-

diences on the network.

Time magazine, which honored "The Silence Breakers" as its Person of the Year in 2017, cited Kelly as the group's leader in the entertainment field.

But tough segments on accusations against former NBC anchor Matt Lauer didn't win her friends internally, as did her public call for Lack to appoint outside investigators to look into why the network didn't air Ronan Farrow's stories about Harvey Weinstein and allowed Farrow to take his story to The New Yorker. When those stories began to fade, Kelly had trouble attracting an audience in the soft-focus world of morning television. She also briefly hosted an evening newsmagazine that didn't catch on with viewers.

Kelly made a tearful apology to viewers following her blackface comments, but it proved to be her last appearance on NBC News. □

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